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THE COMPLETE
LETTER-WRITER;
BEING,
A COURSE OF ORIGINAL LETTERS,
ON
BUSINESS, DUTY, AMUSEMENT, AFFECTION,
COURTSHIP, MARRIAGE, FRIENDSHIP,
AND OTHER SUBJECTS.

Also, Cards of Compliment,
AND
VARIOUS FORMS IN LAW.
LIKEWISE
DIRECTIONS FOR ADDRESSING PERSONS OF
ALL RANKS,
AND
THE COMPLETE PETITIONER.

“Heaven first taught *Letters* for some wretch's aid,
Some banish'd lover, or some captive maid:
They live, they *speak*, they *breathe* what love inspires,
Warm from the soul, and faithful to its fires,
The virgin's wish, without her fears, impart
Excuse the blush and pour out all the heart,
Speed the soft intercourse from soul to soul,
And waft a sigh from Indus to the Pole!”

LONDON:
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193, HIGH HOLBORN.



JOSEPH SMITH, PRINTER, 193, HIGH HOLBORN.

PREFACE.

ALTHOUGH at no period, like the present, were there ever so many publications offered to the public, on various subjects; yet it must be admitted, that there is still a deficiency in that useful branch of literature—the art of epistolary correspondence.

There is scarcely a *Letter-Writer* extant, but what is either on so small a scale, or so carelessly arranged, as to make it almost impossible to find a single letter adapted to the particular subject you may have occasion to write upon; it would therefore be presumption to offer a similar production to public notice, unless it were recommended by very superior claims to attention.

The great utility of epistolary writing is so well known, that it is needless to recommend the study of an art so advantageous to all classes of society; and the Editor flatters him-

PREFACE.

self that no disappointment will be experienced by those who peruse the following pages, as no pains have been spared in the arrangement of this work, which combines such a variety of subjects, as to make it a suitable companion, alike for the counting-house, the parlour, or the study.

THE COMPLETE
LETTER-WRITER

ETC. ETC.

LETTER I.

From a merchant in London, to the master of a college, recommending his son to his care as a pupil.

REV. SIR,

London, Jan. 4, 1818.

The opinion I have long had of your abilities as a scholar, your behaviour as a gentleman, and piety as a christian, encourage me to solicit your kind assistance in an affair of great importance.

My son Charles has finished his grammatical studies in Merchant Tailors' school, and is very desirous of being entered as a commoner in your university. The variety of business which I have on my hands, requires my constant residence in London; but being willing to discharge my duty as a father, I know not any gentleman in Oxford, to whose fidelity I could so readily trust as yourself: and, if you approve this, the youth shall be sent on the return of your answer. He shall be left to your direction entirely, and doubt not but you will treat him with the same tenderness as if he was your own.

I am, sir, &c.

LETTER II.

The doctor's answer to the preceding.

Sir, Oxford, Oct. 6, 1818.

By the post of this day I received yours, and am extremely pleased with your resolution of giving your son a liberal education. My long residence in this seat of learning, has furnished me with many opportunities of studying the different passions and caprices of youth. Our term begins next week, and if you please to send the young gentleman, you may rest assured of his being constantly under my own direction, and the greatest care taken both of his studies and morals.

I am, sir, &c.

LETTER III.

From the young gentleman to his father

My dear sir,

After entreating you to make acceptable my duty to my mother, and love to my sisters, I embrace this opportunity of informing you, how happily I am settled in the family of the worthy doctor. The good gentleman and his amiable lady do every thing in their power to make my life agreeable, during the intervals of my attendance on the public lectures. The doctor has begun to teach me geometry, and I hope soon to be able to make some progress in that science.

I have endeavoured to be as good an economist as possible, but at present am obliged to purchase several books. I know your tender-

ness and generosity, and doubt not of hearing from you soon.

I am, sir, your affectionate and dutiful son

LETTER IV.

The father's answer to the preceding.

Dear Charles,

I received your letter, and am greatly rejoiced to hear of the progress you make in your studies, as well as your agreeable situation. I know the doctor is a worthy man, and if your behaviour continues consistent with the duties of morality, you may be assured of his treating you as if you were his own son.

As to what you mention concerning books, the order inclosed will convince you, that nothing on my part shall be wanting to furnish you with every thing necessary : as I am assured, from your former conduct, you will not require any thing bordering on superfluity.

I am, your affectionate father.

LETTER V.

From a merchant's widow to a lady, a distant relation, in behalf of her two orphans.

Madam,

When you look at the subscription of this letter, I doubt not of your being surprised at its contents : but it is more on account of your amiable character, than that I have the honour of being your relation, that I have presumed to trouble you with this.

My late husband, whom you know was reputed to be in good circumstances, has been dead more than six months. His accounts have been settled with his creditors, and because of many losses and bad debts, there is not more than one hundred pounds left for myself.

I have a son just turned of fourteen, whom I want to bind an apprentice to a good trade: and a daughter, nearly seventeen, whose education has rendered her incapable of acting as a menial servant, although she would willingly be the companion of some young lady, where she might be treated with familiarity and tenderness. In circumstances so distressing, I have presumed to address myself to you: your long acquaintance with the world, will enable you to direct me how to proceed, and I doubt not but your unbounded generosity will induce you to comply with a request dictated by the severity of affliction.

LETTER VI.

The lady's answer to the preceding.

Madam,

I know not whether I am more affected with the modest representation of your affliction, or pleased it is in my power to assist you. You see, madam, that all human hopes are vain, and often attended with deception: when we think our circumstances are independent, there is generally some latent mischief hidden under the specious appearance: and this should teach us continually to look to that Providence, which superintends the affairs of this lower world, and orders all for the good of its creatures. With respect to

your two children, I have to propose to you the following scheme for their benefit:—

Let the boy think of a trade, to which his inclination may lead him, and I will provide him with every necessary during his apprenticeship, and at the expiration of that term (if his behaviour is agreeable), advance something to set him up in business. As for the girl, let her be sent to my house, where she shall be brought up with my daughters, and every thing in my power done to serve her.

I expect that, from time to time, you will communicate to me an account of your own circumstances, that I may be happy in alleviating your calamity.

I am, &c.

LETTER VII.

From the young gentleman to his mother, during his apprenticeship.

My dear mother,

Your having retired to the country, has hindered me from writing to you so often as I could wish. Ever since I was bound to Mr. A. he has treated me with every indulgence, and I have endeavoured to gain the good will of all our customers. I know that you are so straitened in your circumstances, as not to be able to afford me pocket money: but I have the pleasure to tell you that Mrs. H. has taken care in that particular, and generously supplied me from time to time. In every part of my conduct, I shall endeavour to act consistently with the principles of virtue.

And am, with the utmost respect and duty,

Your affectionate son.

LETTER VIII.

From the young lady to her mother

My dear mother,

My last informed you, that my worthy benefactress, Mrs. H. had been extremely ill: I have the pleasure to inform you, that she is now perfectly recovered. The happiness of my present situation may be conceived, but it is not in my power to describe it. After we rise in the morning, the family are called together, to return thanks to God for preserving them during the past night, and to implore his protection for the remainder of the day: afterwards we retire to breakfast. During the forenoon, we young ones walk in the garden, or the fields, while the good lady is employed in dispensing medicines to her poor tenants. At two o'clock we dine, and afterwards retire to the summer-house, when each in her turn reads some part of the best English writers, while the others are employed at needle-work. I have received a letter from my brother, and am happy to hear he is settled so comfortably.

I am, my dear madam,
Your affectionate and dutiful daughter.

LETTER IX.

From a young man to his father, desiring him to intercede with his master to take him again into his service.

My dear sir,

With shame, arising from a sense of guilt, I have presumed to write to you at this time.

I doubt not but you have heard of the irregularities in my conduct, which at last proceeded so far, as not only to induce me to desert the service of the best of masters, but to run into the commission of those vices that might have proved fatal to me, had it not been for the fortunate circumstance of receiving advice from a worthy friend, who initiated me into a religious society, and lent me many moral and religious books, which had a great effect in reclaiming me. It was bad company that first tempted me to forsake the paths of virtue, and neglect my duty in a family where I was accustomed to receive the greatest kindness. Sensible of my fault, I am willing to make every reparation in my power, by acting diametrically opposite to my former conduct. Let me beg of you, sir, to intercede with my amiable master, to take me again into his service, and my future life shall be one continued act of gratitude.

I am, sir, your affectionate,
Though undutiful son.

LETTER X.

The father's answer to the preceding.

My dear child,

If ever you live to be a father, you will know what I feel for you on the present occasion. Tenderness as a parent, resentment on account of ingratitude, a real concern for your future happiness, and respect for the worthy man whose service you deserted, all conspire to agitate my mind to different purposes; but paternal affection becomes predominant, and I am now obliged to act as your friend, although

I am afraid you have considered me as your enemy; I have written to your master, and just now received his answer; copies of which are inclosed. Your master is willing again to receive you, and I hope your behaviour will be correspondent to so much lenity.

I am, your affectionate father.

LETTER XI.

The father's letter to the master.

My worthy friend,

I have often written to you with pleasure, but, alas! I am constrained at present to address myself to you on a subject I little expected. I have just received a letter from my son, by which I am informed, that he has left your service, through the 'instigation of evil company: his letter contains a penitential acknowledgment of his offence, with a declaration of his resolution to act consistently with his duty for the future.² He has begged me to intercede in his behalf; and I know your humanity will excuse parental affection. If you will again receive him into your family, I have great reason to hope his conduct will be equal to his promises; and it will confer a lasting obligation on an afflicted parent.

I am, yours, &c.

1 *with Outland*

2 *for the son is now dead*

LETTER XII.

The master's answer to the preceding.

Sir,

I have Ever since I first considered the state of hu-

man nature, or the difference between right and wrong, I have always preferred mercy to the severity of justice. However reasonable your request may appear to yourself, yet to me it was unnecessary. I am a father, and can feel at least a part of what you suffer. My resentment against the youth is less than my anxiety for his happiness, and were I sure of his adhering to an uninterrupted course of virtue, I should have more real pleasure than his acquiring me the revenue of a nabob.

In the meantime, that nothing may be wanting on my part, to make both you and him as happy as possible, all faults are from this moment forgotten; my house is open for him; and if he will return, he shall be treated with the same indulgence, as if he had never committed any fault whatever.

I am, sir, your affectionate friend.

LETTER XIII.

From a gentleman in the army, to his son at a boarding school, recommending diligence in his studies.

Dear William,

Our regiment is now at Portsmouth, and we are ordered to embark for Minorca. I thought to have called on you at the school, but our orders to march were so sudden, that I had no time to spare from the necessary duties of my station. Let me beg, my dear, that you will pay the utmost attention to your studies.

Youth is the proper time for acquiring knowledge, which, if properly improved, and reduced to practice, will be of the utmost service

to you in your future life ; you are yet unacquainted with the world, and happy will it be for you, if you remain ignorant of the dangers of a military life. Let me entreat you, most earnestly, to think of some employment which will procure you a decent subsistence, and enable you to live comfortably in the world. I have left an order with our agent to pay for your education ; and although my pay is small, yet nothing on my part shall be wanting to make your life as easy as possible. As it will be some days before we sail, I expect to have a letter from you, and if too late, it will be sent after me.

I am, your affectionate father.

LETTER XIV.

The son's answer to the preceding.

My dear sir,

It was one of the first lessons you taught me, that gratitude is the noblest principle that can actuate the heart of man ; but what must it be, when connected with filial duty, incumbent on a son to the most indulgent parent ! I am left in a situation that may be felt, but not described. That my honoured parent should be so precipitately hurried away to a distant country, almost fills me with horror ! especially when I consider that I may never see you again. I am convinced that your advice to me is such, that, if strictly followed, must be attended with the most beneficial consequences to myself ; my honour and happiness will equally depend on adhering to them, and I shall always consider it as my second greatest

duty, to obey the precepts of my worthy father. I already am able to read Xenophon, and next week I enter upon Homer. I have a desire, if agreeable to you, to take chambers in one of the inns of court, in order to study the law; my inclinations run that way, but I submit it wholly to your approbation. Let me beg to hear from you often, as it will be the greatest pleasure I can enjoy during such a separation.

I am, dear sir, your most affectionate son.

LETTER XV.

From a young gentleman, clerk to a merchant in town, to his father in the country, soliciting pocket money.

My dear sir,

Not having received any answer to the letter I sent you by Master Bale, makes me very uneasy; although I have been as economical as possible, yet I find the money you allowed me to take monthly from Mr. Willis, the grocer, is not sufficient to support my necessary expenses, although it was so at first. London is such a place, that, unless one maintains something of a character, you are sure to be treated with contempt, and pointed at as an object of ridicule. I assure you, sir, that I abhor every sort of extravagance as much as you can desire, and the small addition which I ask, is only to promote my own interest, and which I am sure you have as much at heart as any parent possibly can. My master will satisfy you, that my conduct has been consistent with the strictest rules of morality. I submit it to your judgment what you think proper to order me.

I did not choose to mention my want of money to Mr. Willis, and, for that reason, have not taken more than what you ordered. I hope you will not be offended with what I have written. I shall always consider myself happy in performing my duty, and acquiring the favour of my beloved parents.

I am, dear sir, your affectionate son.

LETTER XVI.

The father's answer to the above.

My dear child,

My reason for not sending to you sooner was, I had been on a journey to your uncle, at York, where I was detained longer than I expected, and consequently did not see your letter till last night. I have considered your request, and am convinced it is not unreasonable; you are mistaken, if you think that I wanted to confine you to the small sum paid by Mr. Willis: no, it was indeed inadvertency; but my residing mostly in the country makes me little acquainted with the customs of London. I do not desire to confine you to any particular sum: you are now arrived to an age, when it is absolutely necessary for you to be acquainted with the value of money, your profession likewise requires it: and it is well known, that prudence and sobriety in youth, lead to regularity of conduct in more advanced years. Virtue insures respect: and as I well know that all precepts are useless, where the inclinations are vicious, I have left the affair, mentioned in your letter, entirely to your discretion—and, as

the inclosed order is unlimited, I doubt not but prudence will direct you how to proceed.

I am, dear child your affectionate father.

LETTER XVII.

From a young gentleman at a boarding school in the country, to his brother, an apprentice, in London.

Dear brother,

Little Master Jones is going to London tomorrow in the stage-coach, and I have sent this by him to you. We are all well at school, and I have got as far as Ovid: I have likewise got through the rules of practice, of which I shall give you a better account when I come to town in the holidays. Give my duty to my dearest papa and mamma, and tell them I long to see them: I pray for them and you every day, and I have read over the Complete Duty of Man which my mamma gave me. I spend an hour every day in reading Goldsmith's Roman History. Pray send me some books, for I am very fond of reading, and a pair of shoe-latchets, shoe-strings being forbid by the master to be worn in our school.

I am, your loving brother.

'LETTER XVIII.

The brother's answer to the preceding.

Dear brother,

Your kind letter was received, and am glad to hear you are well, as also of the progress you

make in the classics, &c. I read your letter to papa and mamma, who were much pleased. Mamma has sent you half-a-guinea; and, as you are so fond of books, I have sent you Rolin's Belle Lettres, and the History of England. I have sent you the latchets, &c. We beg you will continue to persevere, as you have begun, in a uniform course of virtue, which will entitle you to the favour of God, be a pleasure to your parents, and turn out greatly to your own advantage at last.

I am, dear brother, yours, affectionately.

LETTER XIX.

From a young tradesman lately entered into business, to his father, asking his consent to marry.

My dear sir,

You know it is now above a year since I entered into business for myself; finding it daily increasing I am obliged to look out for an agreeable partner, I mean a wife: there is a very worthy family in this neighbourhood, with whom I have been some time acquainted; they are in good circumstances, and have a daughter, who is greatly esteemed by all who know her. I have paid my addresses to her, and likewise obtained the consent of her parents, provided it is agreeable to you. I would not do any thing of that nature without your consent, but I hope that, upon inquiry, you will find her such a person, that you will not have an objection to a match so advantageous. On every occasion I endeavour to act with the greatest prudence, consistent with the rules you were pleased to prescribe for my conduct.

The parents are to pay me five hundred pounds on the day of marriage, if the event should happen to take place, and, as they have no other child, the whole of the property becomes ours at their death. In whatever light you are pleased to consider this I shall abide by your direction ; and your answer, in the mean time, is impatiently expected,

By your dutiful son.

LETTER XX.

The father's answer to the above.

My dear son,

The contents of your letter being an affair of great importance, I was willing to proceed therein with the utmost caution, and is the reason for not sending an answer sooner. I wrote to Mr. J., my attorney, New Inn, desiring him to inquire concerning the family you desire to be allied with ; and I am glad to hear that his account agrees with your own. I hope you do not think I would desire to see you one moment unhappy. Your reasons for entering into the marriage state are every way satisfactory, and I am glad to hear that the person on whom you have placed your affections is so deserving. When you have fixed the wedding-day, I will come to London, to be present at the ceremony, and spend a few days with my old friends. I hope you will continue to attend to your business with the same diligence you have hitherto done, and if you should live to an old age, you may then be able to retire from trade with honour, both to yourself and family.

I am, dear son, your affectionate father.

LETTER XXI.

From a young woman, just gone to service in London, to her mother in the country.

Dear mother,

It is now a month that I have been at Mr. W.'s, and I thank God that I like my place so well. My master and mistress are both worthy people, and greatly respected by all their neighbours. At my first coming here I thought every thing strange, and wondered to see such multitudes of people in the streets; but what I suffer most from is the remembrance of yours and my father's kindness; but I begin to be more reconciled to my state, as I know you were not able to support me at home. I return you my thanks for the advice you were so good as to give me at parting, and I shall endeavour to practice it as long as I live; let me hear from you soon; so with my duty to you and my father, and love to friends,

I remain, your most dutiful daughter.

LETTER XXII.

The mother's answer to the preceding.

My dear child,

I am glad to hear that you have got into so worthy a family. You know we never should have parted from you had it not been for your good. If you continue virtuous and obliging all the family will love you. Keep yourself employed as much as you can, and be always ready to assist your fellow servants. Never speak ill of any one; but if you hear a bad

story, try to soften it; do not repeat it, but let it slip out of your mind as soon as possible. I am in great hopes that all the family are kind to you from the character I have heard of them. If you have any time to spare from business, I hope you will spend it in reading your Bible, &c. I pray for you daily, and there is nothing I desire more than my dear child's happiness. Your father desires his blessing, and your brothers and sisters their love to you. Heaven bless you, my dear, and may you continue to be a comfort to us all, but particularly to

Your affectionate mother.

LETTER XXIII.

From an aged lady in the country, to her niece in London, cautioning her against keeping company with a gentleman of bad character.

Dear niece,

The sincere love and affection which I have for your indulgent father, and ever had for your virtuous mother, when she was alive, together with the tender regard I have for your future happiness and welfare, have prevailed on me rather to inform you by letter than by word of mouth, concerning what I have heard of your unguarded conduct, and the too great freedom you take with Mr. D. You have been seen with him at both playhouses, in the parks, Vauxhall, &c. Do not imagine that I write this from a principle of ill-nature; it is on purpose to save you from ruin; for, let me tell you, your familiarity with him gives me great concern, as his character is extremely bad, and he has acted in the most ungenerous manner.

to two or three young ladies of my acquaintance, who entertained two high an opinion of his honour. It is possible, as you have no great fortune to expect, and he has an uncle, from whom he expects a considerable estate, that you may be tempted to imagine his addresses to offer to your advantage; but that is greatly to be questioned; for I have heard that he is much in debt, as also that he is privately engaged to a rich widow at Chelsea. In short, my dear, he is a complete libertine, and is ever boasting of favours from our weak sex, whose fondness and frailty are the constant topic of his railing and ridicule.

Let me prevail on you, dear niece, to avoid his company, as you would do that of a madman; for notwithstanding I still hope you are strictly virtuous, yet your good name may be irreparably lost by such open acts of imprudence. I have no other motive, but an unaffected zeal for your interest and welfare; I flatter myself you will not be offended with the liberty here taken, by

Your sincere friend,
and affectionate aunt.

LETTER XXIV.

The young lady's answer to the preceding.

Honoured madam,

I received your letter, and when I consider your reasons for writing, I thankfully acknowledge you my friend. It is true I have been at those public places you mention, along with Mr. D., but was utterly ignorant of his real character. He did make me proposals of mar-

riage, but I told him I would do nothing without my father's consent. He came to visit me this morning, when I told him that a regard for my reputation obliged me never to see him any more, nor even to correspond with him by letter, and you may depend on my adhering to that resolution. Meanwhile, I return you my thanks for your friendly advice. I am sensible every woman ought to be careful of her reputation, and constantly avoid the company of such persons as Mr. D. I shall leave town in about six weeks, and will call to see you after I have been at my father's.

I am, honoured madam,

Your affectionate niece.

LETTER XXV.

From a young gentleman in the British factory at Lisbon, to his sister in London.

Dear sister,

Your kind present, by the last packet, came safe to hand, for which I am much obliged to you, and am rejoiced to hear of your marriage with Mr. D. I am well settled in the factory, and the gentlemen treat me with the greatest indulgence. We have often been told by our worthy father that popery is little better than paganism, and I have found it to be true ever since I settled in this city, where ignorance, superstition, and even idolatry, seem to reign in the most sovereign manner; and that horrid tribunal, the inquisition, exercises such an unlimited authority over both the bodies and consciences of every person, that none dare utter their sentiments with freedom. We see little else in the streets, besides the processions

of priests and monks; nor any other public representations, except the barbarous diversion of bull-fights, and the dreadful practice of burning those unhappy people called heretics, whose greatest fault is often no more than speaking a word disrespectfully of the priests, or being absent one day from mass. Happy are you, dear sister, to live in a land of liberty. I long to see you again, but the necessity I am under of acquiring a perfect knowledge of my business, obliges me to dispense with many things, in their nature very disagreeable.

I shall be glad to hear from you often; and that you may go on in a course of uninterrupted prosperity and happiness, is the constant prayer of

Your affectionate brother.

LETTER XXVI.

The sister's answer to the preceding.

Dear brother,

Mr. D. has such respect for you, that our son, now more than two months old, is called by your name. I am pleased to hear of the indulgence you receive from the gentlemen of the factory, and doubt not but you will continue to merit it. Good sense and good manners will always go hand in hand together, and never fail of procuring respect. The account you sent us of popish superstition, is consistent with the notions I always had of it; and I sincerely bless God, that I am in a country where true religion is taught, and every sort of persecution abhorred. Your aunt B. is lately dead, and has left you a considerable fortune, but I cannot, at present, mention

the particulars ; and, indeed, it is needless, as Mr. D. will communicate them to you as soon as possible. In the meantime, dear brother, persevere in a uniform course of virtue, which alone can secure your present and future happiness. I have sent you a few presents, also cloth for a suit of mourning for your late worthy aunt. Your time will soon expire, when we shall be glad to see you in London.

I am, your ever affectionate sister

LETTER XXVII.

From a sailor at Falmouth, to his wife in London.

Dear Betty,

We have just returned from a cruise against the Spaniards, and have given them such a drubbing, that I believe the dons will soon be glad to make peace with England. We have sunk two of their ships, and taken three others, wherein is great treasure ; but it will be some time before we receive our prize money. However, I have six months' wages due, and have sent you an order, by which you will receive it at the Pay-office in Broad-street. We shall sail again in a few days. Do not be uneasy for me, my dear, as I hope the war will soon end, and I shall have the pleasure, once more, to see you in London, there to pass the remainder of my days.

I am, your loving husband till death.

LETTER XXVIII.

From a young woman, a servant in London, to her parents, desiring their consent so marry.

Honoured father and mother,

Have sent this to inform you, that one Mr. W., cabinet-maker, a young man, has paid his addresses to me, and now offers me marriage: I told him I would do nothing without your consent, and therefore have sent this by Mr. J. your neighbour, who called on me, and will inform you more particularly of his circumstances.

The young man has been in business more than two years, and is very regular and sober. Most people in the neighbourhood esteem him, and his business is daily increasing. I think I could live extremely happy with him, but do not choose to give him my promise until I have heard from you. Whatever answer you send shall be obeyed by

Your affectionate daughter.

P.S. When we have been married a little time we shall expect one or both of you to come and see us, and spend a few days with us in London, Mr. W. having a very great desire to see you.

LETTER XXIX.

The parents' answer to the preceding.

Dear child,

We received your letter by Mr. J., and the character he gives of the young man who pays his addresses to you is so agreeable, that we

have no objection to your marrying him ; begging that you will seriously consider the duties of that important state before it is too late to repent. Consider well with yourself, that, according to your conduct to each other, you must be either happy or miserable as long as you live. There are many occurrences in life, in which the best of men's tempers may be ruffled, on account of losses or disappointments ; if your husband should at any time be so, endeavour to make him as easy as possible. Be careful of every thing he commits to your keeping, and never affect to appear superior to your station, for although your circumstances may be easy, yet, whilst in trade, you will find a continual want of money for many different purposes. It is possible some of your more polite neighbours may despise you for a while, but they will be forced, in the end, to acknowledge that your conduct was consistent with the duties of a married state. But, above all, remember your duty to God, and then you may cheerfully look for a blessing on your honest endeavours. Pray make our compliments to Mr. W., and we will, if possible, make it convenient to see you when settled. May God direct you in every thing for the best, is the sincere prayer of

Your loving father and mother.

LETTER XXX.

From a young man in the country, to a merchant in London, offering correspondence.

Sir,

My apprenticeship with Mr. W. being expired (during which I had proofs of your in.

tegrity, in your dealings with my worthy master), my parents have given me £200 to begin the world, which you know is not sufficient to carry on trade to any advantage; that I may be able to sell my goods as cheap as possible, I would choose to have them from the first hand, and likewise the usual time of credit. If it is agreeable to you, I hereby offer you my correspondence, not doubting but you will use me as well as you did Mr. W., and you may depend on my punctuality with respect to payments.

My late master has no objection to my setting up, as it will not be in the least prejudicial to his business. I shall depend on your sending me the following order as soon, and as cheap, as possible.

I am, sir, your humble servant.

LETTER XXXI.

The merchant's answer to the preceding.

Sir,

Yours I received, and am extremely glad to hear that your parents have enabled you to open a shop for yourself. Your behaviour to your late master was such, that it cannot fail of procuring you many customers. I have sent the goods by the waggon, in ten parcels, marked M. I.; and doubt not but you will be punctual in your returns, which will enable me to serve you as low as possible, and with the best goods which I can procure. I most heartily wish you success in business; and you must well know, that honesty and assiduity are the most likely means to insure it.

I am, your obliged servant.

LETTER XXXII.

From a young man whose master had lately died.

Sir,

I doubt not but you have heard of my late worthy master's death. I have served him as apprentice and journeyman for above twelve years ; and, as my mistress does not choose to carry on the business, I have taken to the shop and stock in trade, and shall be glad to deal with you in the same manner he did. I have sent the inclosed order for payment of such bills as are due, and you may depend on punctuality with respect to the remainder, for which purpose let the whole be entered as my debt. Please to send the inclosed order, and let the goods be the best you have, which will very much oblige

Your humble servant.

LETTER XXXIII

The answer to the preceding.

Sir,

Yours I received, and am extremely sorry to hear of the death of my friend, your late master ; but, at the same time, pleased to find that his business has fallen into such good hands as yours. You have a double advantage over a stranger, as you are well acquainted both with your late master's trade and customers, which, by his dealings with me, appear to be rather extensive. I have sent your order in ten bales, marked O. P., by the Venus, of Hull, J. Jones, master, and you will find them as good and as cheap as any that are to be had in London. I

heartily thank you for your offered correspondence, and shall, on all occasions, use you with honour. I wish you all manner of success ; and am, &c.

LETTER XXXIV.

To a correspondent, requesting the payment of a sum of money.

Sir,

Although the balance of the account between us has been long standing in my favour, yet I would not have applied to you at present, had not a very unexpected demand been made upon me for a large sum, which, without your assistance, is not in my power to answer. When I see you, I will inform you of the nature of this demand, and the necessity of my discharging it. I hope you will excuse me this freedom, which nothing but a regard to my credit and family could oblige me to take. If it does not suit you to remit the whole, part will be thankfully received by

Your humble servant.

LETTER XXXV.

The merchant's answer to the preceding.

Sir,

I have just received yours, and am sorry to hear of your affliction. That the account between us was not sooner settled, was owing to the failure of two principal creditors. I have just received a remittance from Norwich, and am pleased it is in my power to answer

the whole of your demand. The balance between us is two hundred and fifty pounds, for which I have sent inclosed an order on Mr. C. the banker. I hope you will surmount this and every other difficulty, and am,

Your sincere well-wisher.

LETTER XXXVI

From a merchant at Leghorn to his brother in London, desiring him to sell some goods, and purchase others.

Sir,

According to the agreement settled between us when I left England, I have sent, by the *Charming Sally*, Captain J., twelve bales of raw silk, marked A. Z., desiring you to dispose of them to the best advantage; they are all warranted good, as I examined every parcel separately, before they were sent on board. You will receive an inclosed order for various articles of British manufactures, to be sent by the first ship sailing for this port. Let them be as good and cheap as possibly you can procure, as they are much wanted at present.

I am, sir, your humble servant.

LETTER XXXVII.

The answer to the preceding.

Sir,

Yours I received, and the bales, marked A. Z., were delivered at the Custom-house. I immediately advertised them for sale, at Gar-

ra'way's, in twelve different lots, but they were all purchased by an eminent manufacturer, in Spitalfields, for nine hundred pounds, which I have lodged in the Bank in your name. I have likewise shipped on board the Despatch, Captain W., the different articles which you ordered, there are twenty bales, marked B. M. I am told they are the best that can be had, and doubt not of their giving satisfaction.

I am, sir, your humble servant.

LETTER XXXVIII.

From a young person in trade, to a wholesale dealer, who had suddenly made a demand upon him.

Sir,

Your demand coming very unexpectedly, I must confess I am not prepared to answer it. I know the stated credit, in this article, used to be only four months, but as it has always been a custom to allow at least two months more, I did not think you would have sent for it till that time, and consequently trusted to a practice so long established in the trade. I beg, sir, you will not suppose it is any deficiency which hinders me from complying with your request, nor shall I ask any more than is usual. If you will be pleased to let your servant call this day three weeks for one half of the sum, it shall be ready, and the remainder in a fortnight after. In the mean time, I beg that you will not let any word slip concerning this, as very little will hurt a young beginner. You may take my word, sir, with the greatest safety, that I will pay you as I have promised: and if you have any rea-

son to demand the money sooner, be pleased to let me know, that if I have it not, I may borrow it; for if I have lost credit with you, I hope I have not done so with the whole of the world,

I am, sir, your humble servant.

LETTER XXXIX.

The answer.

Sir,

There is no person in the world who would more willingly show every sort of indulgence to a young beginner than myself, and I am extremely sorry to press you on the present occasion; but I have my reasons: and although it is not fair or prudent to mention them, yet you will give me leave to ask the following question: whether you have any dealings with a usurer, near Moorfields, and what is his name? If you give me satisfaction on this head, I shall not urge the demand I have made upon you, sooner than the time you mention; but, as it may be done at once, I expect your answer by the bearer, whom you well know, for he was, as he informs me, very lately your servant. I assure you, sir, it is in consideration of the good opinion I have of your integrity, that I refer the payment of my demand to an answer to this very simple question only.

I am, your friend and well-wisher.

LETTER XL.

Soliciting the loan of money from a friend.

Dear sir,

I believe that ever since you first knew me you will be ready to acknowledge, that no person was ever more bashful in asking favours than myself. Indeed I have always considered it as more pleasing, to an honest mind, to confer than receive a favour : but an unexpected affliction in my family obliges me to solicit your assistance, by the loan of about forty pounds, for six months ; but on this condition, that you can spare it without hurting yourself ; for I would by no means choose that my friend should suffer in his present circumstances in order to oblige me. Indeed, sir, I was some days engaged amongst my acquaintances to raise the money, before I could prevail with myself to ask it from you : and that I have now done it, is from a principle far more noble than a lucrative motive ; nor, indeed, would I have asked it at all, were I not morally certain of paying it at the time proposed. I hope this will not give any offence, and, as I said before, if it is any way inconvenient, let me beg that you will refuse it.

I am, sir, yours, with the greatest sincerity.

LETTER XLI.

The answer.

Dear sir,

I could not hesitate one moment in answering your letter ; and had I known that my worthy friend had been in want of the sum

mentioned, I should never have put his unaffected modesty to the blush, by suffering him to ask it: no, sir, the offer should have come from myself. However, the sum is sent by the bearer: but let me beg, that if you consider me really as your friend, that you will suit the payment to your own circumstances, without being confined to a particular time; and not only so, but that you will likewise command my assistance in every thing else, wherein I can serve you. But lest you should think me strictly formal, I have hereby given you leave to draw on me to the amount of two hundred pounds, or for any less sum, to be paid as is most suitable to your circumstances.

I am, sir, your sincere friend.

LETTER XLII.

From a tenant to a landlord, excusing delay of payment.

Sir,

I have been your tenant above ten years in the house where I now live, and you know that I have never failed to pay my rent quarterly when due. At present I am extremely sorry to inform you, that from a variety of losses and disappointments, I am under the necessity of begging that you will indulge me one quarter longer. By that time I hope to have it in my power to answer your demand, and the favour shall be gratefully acknowledged,

By your obedient humble servant.

LETTER XLIII

The answer.

Sir,

It was never my design to oppress you. I have had long trial of your honesty, and therefore you may rest perfectly satisfied concerning your present request. No demand shall be made by me, upon you, for rent, until it suits you to pay it; for I am well convinced you will not keep it from me any longer.

I am, &c.

LETTER XLIV.

From a country farmer, on the same occasion.

Honoured sir,

I am extremely sorry, that, through a variety of unforeseen accidents, I am obliged to write to you on such a subject as this. The season last year was bad, but I was enabled to pay you. This has turned out much worse, and it being so long before we could get the corn home, it is not yet fit to be sold. I only beg your indulgence about two months longer, when I hope to pay you faithfully.

I am,

Your honest tenant and humble servant.

LETTER XLV.

The answer to the preceding.

Mr. Clover,

From the whole of my conduct, ever since you first became my tenant, I hope that you

cannot have reason to allege any thing against me. I never treated you with rigour, as I always considered you an industrious honest man. Make yourself perfectly easy concerning the payment of your rent, till I come into the country in the summer, and, if things are as you represent them, and I doubt not but they are, you may be assured of every reasonable indulgence.

I am, yours, &c.

LETTER XLVI.

From an insolvent debtor to his principal creditor, desiring the acceptance of a composition.

Sir,

When I first entered into business, I little thought that ever I should be under the necessity of writing to you on such a subject as this; but experience has taught me, that it is much better to acknowledge the state of my affairs to my creditors, than put them to the expense of taking out a commission of bankruptcy. To you, sir, therefore, as the person to whom I am principally indebted, do I address myself on this melancholy occasion, and must freely acknowledge, that my affairs are much deranged. I have been these ten years past endeavouring to acquire something for myself, but in vain; for the variety of different articles which I have been obliged to sell on credit, and the losses sustained thereby, always kept me in low circumstances; and often, when I paid you money, I had none left for the support of my family. If you will be pleased to employ any prudent person to examine my books, I doubt not but you will be convinced,

that the whole of my conduct has been consistent with the rules of the strictest honesty ; and, if it shall appear so to you, I must beg you will be pleased to call a meeting of the creditors, and lay it before them. I have not spent any more than was really and absolutely necessary for the support of my family, and every thing remaining shall be delivered up. When all this is done, I hope you will accept it, as it is not in my power to do more, and consider me as one whose misfortunes call for pity instead of resentment.

I am, sir, your most humble servant.

LETTER XLVII.

The answer to the preceding.

Sir,

With the greatest concern I have perused your affecting letter ; and should consider myself as very cruel indeed, if I refused to comply with a request so reasonable as that made by you. I have employed a worthy person, a friend of mine, to examine your books, the result of which shall be immediately laid before the other creditors, and if it is as you represent, you need not be afraid of any harsh usage. I always considered you as one of the greatest integrity, and am determined to lay down a plan for your future support. In the meantime I have sent a trifle to defray your expenses, till the affairs are settled, and am

Your sincere well-wisher.

LETTER XLVIII.

From a tradesman to a wholesale dealer, to delay payment of a sum of money.

Sir,

My note to you will be payable in ten days, and I am sorry to inform you, that although I have considerable sums in good hands, yet none of them are due these three weeks, which is the most time I require. It is a favour. I never asked of any one till this moment, and I hope for the future not to have any occasion to repeat it. I am really distressed for your answer ; but, as a proof of my sincerity, have sent inclosed three notes subscribed by persons well known to yourself, and although they exceed my debt, yet I have no objection to your keeping them as security till due. Let me beg to hear from you as soon as this comes to hand, which will much oblige,

Your humble servant.

LETTER XLIX.

The answer.

Sir,

Your letter arrived the day after it was written, which was extremely fortunate for you, as I was to have paid your note away yesterday, and I could not have had an opportunity of recalling it in time to have served you. Indeed it was imprudent not to communicate the news to me sooner, as your credit might have been greatly affected by such an unnecessary delay. However, I impute it to

your unwillingness to reveal the state of your affairs, and shall keep the note in my hands till your own becomes due, and for that purpose have returned the others, not doubting but you will send me the money at the time promised, which will greatly oblige,

Your sincere well-wisher.

LETTER L.

From a merchant's clerk in London, to his master in the country.

Sir,

Our not hearing from you these three weeks has made us very uneasy, but still we hope you are well. The business has been carried on in the same manner in which you left it: but yesterday an order came from New York, for goods to the amount of five thousand pounds and upwards. You know the American credit, and therefore I would not do any thing till I heard from you. If you please to write by the next post, I shall abide by your directions, and every thing shall be conducted by your order. We would not wish you to return before your health is fully re-established, although we desire to see you every day. All the family are well.

I am, your obedient faithful servant.

LETTER LI.

The merchant's answer.

Mr. Thompson,

Yours I received this day, and am pleased at to hear that my business succeeds so well. I

always confided in you greatly, and am glad to find that I have not been deceived. I am much better in my health than when I left London, although it is not yet fully re-established, but I hope it will be so in a short time. Concerning the American order, I am extremely glad to hear of it, not only on my account, but also of trade in general. Their credit, to be sure, is long, but I would rather trust to our brethren, in that part of the world, two years, than those who are our natural enemies one month. You may give orders for the different goods wanting to be got ready, as soon as possible, and before they are completed I hope to be in town. I am much pleased to hear that my servants are concerned for my welfare, as it will always give me great pleasure to make their different situations as comfortable as is consistent with the state of servitude. I am, &c.

LETTER LII.

recommending a man-servant.

Sir,

The bearer has served me with integrity and fidelity these three years, but having a desire to settle in London, he left my house about a week ago, and by a letter received from him this day, I find you are willing to employ him on my recommendation, and it is with the greatest pleasure that I can comply with his request. His behaviour while with me was strictly honest, sober, and diligent, and I doubt not but it will be the same with you. I have sent this inclosed in one to himself, and if you employ him, I hope he will give satisfaction.

I am, sir, your humble servant.

THE COMPLETE
LETTER LIII.

The answer to the preceding.

Sir,

Your obliging letter is received, in recommendation of the young man, and have, in consequence, taken him into my family. I doubt not, from what you say, of his giving satisfaction: and you may be assured of his being treated with great humanity, and rewarded according to his merit.

I am, your humble servant.

LETTER LIV.

From a country shopkeeper, to his friend in London, desiring him to send him some goods.

Sir,

That friendship which we contracted in our youth is not yet, I hope, abated, although Providence has placed us many miles distant from each other. I have heard of your success in London, and it is with pleasure I can assure you that I am comfortably settled here. But you know that our returns are slow, and profits small, and therefore, however willing, I am not in circumstances sufficient to defray the expenses of a journey to town, in order to purchase goods at the best hand, which has been attended with some loss, because a considerable expense. Relying, therefore, on your former friendship, I have presumed to solicit your assistance, to purchase from time to time, what goods I may happen to want from London, for which an order shall be remitted on delivery. At present I have only sent for

a few articles, as you will see by the inclosed. I doubt not of your getting them as good and as cheap as possible ; and if there is any thing I can do to serve you in this part of the country, you may depend on its being executed with the utmost fidelity and despatch.

I am, sir, your sincere friend.

LETTER LV.

The answer.

Sir,

Yours I received, and am extremely glad to hear of your being so comfortably settled. There is a pleasure in looking back to those youthful days we spent together in harmless amusement, and it gives me great pleasure to think that I have it in my power to be any way of service to my friend. The goods you ordered are sent in the Marlborough waggon, directed to you. They are good, and as cheap as any in London, and I hope you will be a considerable gainer. With respect to your kind proffer of service, I heartily thank you, and shall, as occasion requires, trouble you with something of that nature. In the mean time, be sure to command me in every thing wherein I can serve you, as it will give the greatest pleasure to

Your sincere friend.

LETTER LVI.

From a country shopkeeper, to a dealer in London, complaining of the badness of his goods.

Sir,

When I first began to correspond with you, it was my fixed resolution to act with inte-

grity and honour, expecting the same in return. I must, indeed, confess that the goods you sent me for some time were as good as any I could purchase from another, and so far I had not any reason to complain. But now the case is quite different. The two last parcels you sent me are so bad, that I dare not offer them to my customers. From what, sir, does this proceed? Have I ever been deficient in my payments? No, you dare not accuse me with any thing of that nature. However, I am obliged to tell you, that unless you send me others in their room, I must either withdraw my correspondence, or shut my shop. Your immediate answer will oblige,
Yours, &c.

LETTER LVII.

The answer to the preceding.

Sir,

I received yours, and am extremely sorry to hear the goods sent you were so bad. I know I had some such in my warehouse, but was determined to sell them at a low rate, without ever thinking of their being sent to any of my customers, particularly so valuable a correspondent as yourself. By some mistake my servants have inadvertently sent them, for which I am extremely sorry; but in order to make you amends, I send by this day's wagon those which I had originally intended for you, at my own expense. I hope you will excuse this, and be assured you shall never be served in such a manner for the future.

I am, sir, your humble servant.

LETTER LVIII.

*From a tradesman in distressed circumstances,
desiring a letter of license.*

Sir,

It is now above ten years since I first had dealings with you, and during that time you know that my payments were regular, but, at present, am sorry that my affairs are so perplexed, that it is not in my power to comply with the just demands of my creditors, nor even to pay them any thing until my affairs are settled: for that reason, sir, I have sent to you, desiring a letter of license for only twelve months, in which time I hope to be able to settle my affairs to their satisfaction; but if they will not comply with this, I am completely ruined. Your answer is very impatiently expected by

Your obedient humble servant.

LETTER LIX.

The answer.

Sir,

Yours I received, and am extremely sorry to hear that your circumstances are so distressed. In order to comply with your request, I called a meeting of the creditors, and I doubt not but they will agree to a proposal so fair and reasonable, of which I shall give you notice.

I am, sir, your real friend.

LETTER LX.

To an acquaintance to borrow a sum of money.

Dear sir,

If you have fifty guineas, which you can, without any inconvenience, spare for about six months, I shall be greatly obliged to you to lend them to me for so long.

I have been greatly disappointed and pressed for money at the same time; it is an unlucky, but not an uncommon circumstance. You will believe me, that I would not ask this of you, if I were not certain to give it to you back; but if it be the least inconvenience to spare the money at all, or to be so long without it, pray refuse me.

I am, dear sir,

Yours, with the greatest sincerity.

LETTER LXI.

To an intimate acquaintance to borrow money.

Pray favour me, Charles, with twenty guineas, by the bearer, who is my servant. I have immediate occasion; but will repay it again whenever you please to make a demand. This letter will answer all the purpose of a note; from your obliged humble servant.

LETTER LXII.

To an acquaintance to borrow a sum of money for a short time.

Dear sir,

If it be quite convenient and agreeable to you I'll beg the favour of you to lend me fifty pounds

for the space of three months precisely : any security that you can require, and I can give, you may freely ask. A less time would not suit me ; a longer, you may depend on it, I shall not desire. Your answer will oblige,

Sir, your very humble servant.

LETTER LXIII.

The answer.

Dear sir,

Any thing in my power is at all times very much at your service ; the sum you mention I have now by me, and can very conveniently spare it for the time you fix, and you are most heartily welcome to it : any hour that you shall appoint to-morrow I'll be ready ; and am, with the greatest sincerity,

Your affectionate friend and humble servant

LETTER LXIV.

From a servant in London, to his master in the country.

Sir,

As I find your stay in the country longer than you expected, I thought it my duty to acquaint you that we are all well at home ; and to assure you that your business shall be carried on with the same care and fidelity as if you were personally present. We all wish for your return as soon as your affairs will permit ; and it is with pleasure that I take this opportunity of subscribing myself,

Sir, your most obedient and faithful servant.

LETTER LXV.

*From a young person in business to a gentleman,
desiring leave to wait on his daughter.*

Sir,

I hope that the justness of my intentions will excuse the freedom of this letter, whereby I am to acquaint you of the affection and esteem I have for your daughter. I would not, sir, offer at any indirect address, that should have the least appearance of inconsistency with her duty to you, and my honourable views to her; choosing, by your influence, if I may approve myself to you worthy of that honour, to commend myself to her approbation. You are not insensible, sir, by the credit I have hitherto preserved in the world, of my ability, by God's blessing, to make her happy; and this the rather emboldens me to request the favour of an evening's conversation with you, at your first convenience, when I will more fully explain myself, as I earnestly hope, to your satisfaction, and take my encouragement or discouragement from your own mouth. I am, sir, in the mean time, with great respect,

Your most obedient humble servant.

LETTER LXVI.

*From a lady to her father, acquainting him with
a proposal of marriage made to her*

Honoured sir,

As young Mr. Lovewell, whose father I am sensible is one of your intimate acquaintance, has, during your absence in the country, made an open declaration of his passion for me, and

pressed me closely to comply with his overtures of marriage, I thought it my duty to decline all offers of that nature, however advantageous they might seem to be, till I had your thoughts on so important an affair ; and I am absolutely determined either to discourage his addresses, or keep him at least in suspense, till your return, as I shall be directed by your superior judgment. I beg leave, however, with due submission, to acquaint you of the idea I have entertained of him, and hope I am not too blind or partial in his favour. He seems to me to be perfectly honourable in his intentions, and to be no ways inferior to any gentleman of my acquaintance hitherto, in regard to good sense or good manners. I frankly own, sir, I could admit of his addresses with pleasure, were they attended with your consent and approbation : be assured, however, that I am not so far engaged, as to act with precipitation, or comply with any offers inconsistent with that filial duty, which, in gratitude to your paternal indulgence, I shall ever owe you. Your speedy instruction, therefore, in so momentous an article, will prove the greatest satisfaction imaginable to,

Honoured sir, your most dutiful daughter.

LETTER LXVII.

The answer of a young lady to a gentleman's letter, who professes an aversion to the tedious forms of courtship.

Sir,

I am no more fond of the fashionable modes of courtship than yourself. Plain dealing, I own, is best ; but methinks common decency should always be preserved.

There is something so peculiar and whimsical in your manner of expression, that I am absolutely at a loss to determine whether you are really serious, or only write for your own amusement. When you explain yourself in more intelligible terms, I shall be better able to form a judgment of your passion, and more capable of returning you a proper answer. What influence your future addresses may have over me I cannot say; but to be free with you, your first attempt has made no impression on the heart of,

Yours, &c.

LETTER LXVIII.

The lady's reply to another letter from the same gentleman, wherein he more explicitly avows his passion.

Sir,

Since neither of us, I perceive, are overfond of squandering our time away in idle, unmeaning compliments, I think proper to inform you, in direct terms, that the disposal of my person is not altogether in my power; and, that notwithstanding my father and mother are both deceased, yet I transact no single affair of any moment, without consulting Sir Orlando Wiseman, of Lincoln's-inn, who is my counsel upon all occasions, and is a gentleman, as I conceive, of the strictest honour and honesty, and one on whose judgment I can safely rely. I'll be so fair and just to you, as freely to acknowledge, that I have no objection to your person. If therefore you think proper to wait on him with your proposals, and I find that he approves them, I shall act without any mental reservation, and

be very apt to encourage a passion, that I imagine to be both honourable and sincere.

I am, sir, your humble servant.

LETTER LXIX.

From a daughter to a father, wherein she arduously expostulates against a match he had proposed to her with a gentleman much older than herself.

Honoured sir,

Though your injunctions should prove diametrically opposite to my own secret inclinations, yet I am not insensible that the duty which I owe you binds me to comply with them. Besides I should be very ungrateful, should I presume, in any point whatever, considering your numberless acts of parental indulgences towards me, to contest your will and pleasure. Though the consequences thereof should prove never so fatal, I am determined to be all obedience, in case what I have to offer in my own defence should have no influence over you, or be thought an insufficient plea for my aversion to a match, which, unhappily for me, you seem to approve of. It is very possible, sir, the gentleman you recommend to my choice, may be possessed of all that substance, and all those good qualities, that bias you so strongly in his favour; but be not angry, dear sir, when I remind you that there is a vast disproportion in our years. A lady, of more experience, and of a more advanced age, would, in my humble opinion, be a much fitter helpmate for him. To be ingenuous (permit me, good sir, to speak the sentiments of my heart without reserve, for once), a man, almost in his grand climac-

teric, can never be an agreeable companion for me ; nor can the natural gaiety of my temper, which has hitherto been indulged by yourself in every innocent amusement, be over agreeable to him. Though his fondness at first may connive at the little freedoms I shall be apt to take ; yet, as soon as the edge of his appetite shall be abated, he will grow jealous, and for ever torment me without a cause. I shall be debarred of every diversion suitable to my years, though never so harmless and inoffensive ; permitted to see no company ; sent down, perhaps, to some melancholy rural recess ; and there, like my lady Grace in the play, sit pensive and alone, under a green tree. Your long experienced goodness, and that tender regard which you have always expressed for my ease and satisfaction, encourage me thus freely to expostulate with you on an affair of so great importance. If, however, after all, you shall judge the inequality of our age an insufficient plea in my favour, and that want of affection for a husband is but a trifle, where there is an immense large fortune and a coach and six to throw into the scale ; if, in short, you shall lay your peremptory commands upon me to give up all my real happiness and peace of mind for the vanity of living in pomp and grandeur, I am ready to submit to your superior judgment. Give me leave, however, to observe, that it is impossible for me ever to love the man into whose arms I am to be thrown ; and that my compliance with so detested a proposition, is nothing more than the result of the most inviolable duty to a father, who never made the least attempt before to thwart the inclinations of,

His ever obedient daughter.

LETTER LXX.

From a young lady to a gentleman that courted her, whom she could not like, but was forced by her parents to receive his visits, and think of none else for her husband.

Sir,

It is a very ill return which I make to the respect you have for me, when I acknowledge to you, that though the day of our marriage is appointed, I am incapable of loving you. You may have observed in the long conversations we have had at those times that we were left together, that some secret hung upon my mind. I was obliged to use an ambiguous behaviour, and durst not reveal myself further, because my mother, from a closet near the place where we sat, could both hear and see us during our conversation. I have strict commands from both my parents to receive you, and am undone for ever, except you will be so kind and generous as to refuse me. Consider, sir, the misery of bestowing yourself upon one who can have no prospect of happiness but from your death. This is a confession made, perhaps, with an offensive sincerity ; but that conduct is much to be preferred to a secret dislike, which could not but pall all the sweets of life, by imposing on you a companion that dotes and languishes for another. I will not go so far as to say my passion for the gentleman, whose wife I am by promise, would lead me to any thing criminal against your honour. I know it is dreadful enough to a man of your sense to expect nothing but forced civilities in return for the tender endearments, and cold esteem for undeserved love. If you will on

this occasion let reason take place of passion, I doubt not but fate has in store for you some worthier object of your affection, in recompense of your goodness to the only woman that could be insensible of your merit.

I am, your most humble servant

LETTER LXXI.

From a young lady to a gentleman who courts her, and whom she suspects of infidelity.

Sir,

The freedom and sincerity with which I have at all times laid open my heart to you, ought to have some weight in my claim to a return of the same confidence : but I have reason to fear that the best of men do not always act as they ought. I write to you what it would be impossible to speak ; but, before I see you, I desire you will either explain your conduct last night, or confess that you have used me not as I have deserved of you.

It is in vain to deny that you took pains to recommend yourself to Miss Peacock ; your earnestness of discourse also showed me that you were no stranger to her. I desire to know, sir, what sort of acquaintance you can wish to have with another person of character, after making me believe you wished to be married to me. I write very plainly to you because I expect a plain answer. I am not apt to be suspicious, but this was too particular ; and I must be either blind or indifferent to overlook it. Sir, I am neither ; though, perhaps, it would be better for me if I were one or the other.

I am, yours, &c.

LETTER LXXII.

The answer to the preceding.

My dearest Mary,

What can have put it into your thoughts to be suspicious of me, whose heart and soul you know are truly yours, and whose whole thoughts and wishes are but on you? Sweet quarreller, you know this: what afternoon have I spent from you? or who did you ever see me speak to without distaste, when it prevented my talking with you?

You know how often you have cautioned me not to speak to you before your uncle; and you know he was there. But you do well to abuse me for being too obedient to your commands; for I promise you you shall never get any other cause. I thought it most prudent to be seen talking with another, when it was my business not so much as to look at you. Miss Peacock is a very old acquaintance; she knows my perfect devotion to you, and she very well knew all that civility and earnestness of discourse about nothing, was pretended. I write to you before I come, because you commanded me; but I will make you ask my pardon in a few minutes for robbing me of those few, which might have been passed with you, and which it has taken to write this letter. My sweetest chider, I am coming to you; after this, never doubt that I am,

Yours, most truly.

LETTER LXXIII.

From a gentleman to a lady, whom he accuses of inconstancy.

Madam,

You must not be surprised at a letter in the

place of a visit, from one who cannot but have reason to believe it may easily be as welcome as his company. You should not suppose, if lovers have lost their sight, that their senses are also banished; and if I refuse to believe my eyes, when they show me your inconstancy, you must not wonder that I cannot stop my ears against the accounts of it. Pray let us understand one another properly; for I am afraid we are deceiving ourselves all this while; am I a person whom you esteem, whose fortune you do not despise, and whose pretensions you encourage; or am I a troublesome coxcomb, who fancy myself particularly received by a woman who only laughs at me. If I am the latter, you treat me as I deserve: and I ought to join with you in saying I deserve it: but if it be otherwise, and you receive me, as I think you do, as a person you intend to marry, for it is best to be plain on these occasions, for heaven's sake, what is the meaning of that universal coquetry in public, where every fool flatters you, and you are pleased with the meanest of them? and what can be the meaning that I am told you, last night in particular, was an hour with Mr. M.; and are so wherever you meet him, if I am not in company. Both of us, madam, you cannot think of; and I should be sorry to imagine, that when I had given you my heart so entirely, I shared yours with any body.

I have said a great deal too much to you, and yet I am tempted to say more; but I shall be silent. I beg you will answer this, and I have a right to expect you do it generously and fairly. Do not mistake what is the effect of the distraction of my heart, for want of respect to you. While I write this, I dote upon you, but I cannot bear to be deceived where all my happiness is centered. Yours, &c.

LETTER LXXIV.

The answer to the preceding.

Sir,

If I did not make all the allowance you desire at the end of your letter, I should not answer you at all. But although I am really unhappy to find you are so, and the more to find myself to be the occasion, I can hardly impute the unkindness and incivility of your letter to the single cause you would have me. However, as I would not be suspected of any thing that should justify such treatment from you, I think it necessary to inform you, that what you have heard has no more foundation than what you have seen : however, I wonder that other eyes should not be as easily alarmed as yours ; for, instead of being blind, believe me, sir, you see more than there is. Perhaps, however, their sight may be as much sharpened by unprovoked malice, as yours by undeserved suspicion.

Whatever may be the end of this dispute for I do not think so lightly of lovers' quarrels as many do, I think it proper to inform you that I never have thought favourably of any one but yourself ; and I shall add, that if the fault of your temper, which I once little suspected, should make me fear you too much to marry, you will not see me in that state with any other : nor courted by any other in the world.

I did not know that the gaiety of my temper gave you uneasiness ; and you ought to have told me of it with less severity. If I am particular in it, I am afraid it is a fault in my natural disposition ; but I would have taken some pains to get the better of that, if I had known it was disagreeable to you. I ought to

resent this treatment more than I do, but do not insult my weakness on that head; for a fault of that kind would want the excuse this has for my pardon, and might not be so easily overlooked, though I should wish to do it. I should say, I will not see you to-day, but you have an advocate that pleads for you much better than you do for yourself. I desire you will first look carefully over this letter, for my whole heart is in it, and then come to me.

Yours, &c.

LETTER LXXV.

From a young tradesman to a lady he had seen in public.

Madam,

Perhaps you will not be surprised to receive a letter from a person who is unknown to you, when you reflect how likely so charming a face may be to create impertinence; and I persuade myself that when you remember where you sat last night at the playhouse, you will not need to be told this comes from the person who was just before you.

In the first place, madam, I ask pardon for the liberty I then took of looking at you, and for the greater liberty I now take in writing to you: but, after this, I beg leave to say that my thoughts are honourable, and to inform you who I am I shall not pretend to be any better. I keep a shop, madam, in Henrietta-street, and though but two years in trade, I have tolerable custom. I do not doubt but it will increase, and I shall be able to do something for a family. If your inclinations are not engaged, I should be very proud of the honour of waiting on you: and ~~me~~ in the meantime, if you please to desire any

friend to ask my character in the neighbourhood, I believe it will not be prejudicial to,
Madam, your most humble servant.

LETTER LXXVI.

From a relation of the lady, in answer to the above.

Sir,

There has come into my hands a letter which you wrote to Miss Fanny Hodson; she is a relation of mine, and is a very good girl; and I dare say you will not think the worse of her for consulting her friends in such an affair as that you wrote about: besides, a woman could not well answer such a letter herself, unless it was with a full refusal, and that she would have been wrong to have done, until she knew something of the person who wrote it, as wrong as to have encouraged him.

You seem very sincere and open in your designs, and as you gave permission to inquire about you among the neighbours, I being her nearest friend, did that for her. I have heard a very good account of you; and from all that I see, you may be very suitable for one another. She has some fortune; and I shall tell you farther, that she took notice of you at the play, and does not seem perfectly averse to seeing you in the presence of,

Your humble servant.

LETTER LXXVII.

From a lover who had cause of displeasure, and determines never to see the lady again.

Madam,

There was a time when, if any one had told

me that I should ever have written to you such a letter as I am now writing, I should as soon have believed that the earth would have burst asunder, or that I should see stars falling from the heavens. But there is nothing too strange to happen ; one thing would have appeared yet more impossible than my writing it, which is, that you should have given me the cause to have written it, and yet that has happened.

The purpose of this is to tell you, madam, that I shall never wait on you again. You will truly know what I make myself suffer when I impose this command upon my own heart ; but I would not tell you of it, if it were not too much determined for me to have a possibility of changing my resolution.

It gives me some pleasure, that you will feel no uneasiness for this, though I should also have been very averse some time ago even to have imagined that ; but you know where to employ that attention, of which I am not worthy the whole, and with a part I shall not be contented. I was a witness, madam, yesterday to your behaviour to Mr. Henley. I had often been told of this, but have refused to listen to it. I supposed your heart no more capable of deceit than my own : but I cannot disbelieve what I have been told on such authority, when my own eyes confirm it. Madam, I take my leave of you, and beg you will forget there ever was such a man as,

Your humble servant.

LETTER LXXVIII.

From a respectful lover to his mistress.

Dear madam,

I have long struggled with the most honour-

able and respectful passion that ever filled the heart of man ; I have often tried to reveal it personally, as often in this way, but never till now could prevail upon my fears and doubts. I can no longer struggle with a secret that has given me so much torture to keep, and yet hitherto more when I have endeavoured to reveal it. I never entertain the hope to see you without rapture ; but when I have that pleasure, instead of being animated, as I ought, I am utterly confounded. What can this be owing to, but a diffidence in myself, and an exalted opinion of your worthiness ? And is not this a strong token of ardent love ? Yet if it be, how varying is the tormenting passion in its operations ! Since some it inspires with courage, while others it deprives of all necessary confidence. I can only assure you, madam, that the heart of man never conceived a stronger or sincerer passion than mine for you. If my reverence for you is my crime, I am sure it has been my sufficient punishment. I need not to say my designs and motives are honourable ; who dare approach so much excellence, with a supposition, that such an assurance is necessary. What my fortune is, is well known, and I am ready to stand the test of the strictest inquiry. Condescend, dear madam, to embolden my respectful passion by one favourable line, that if what I here profess, and hope further to have an opportunity to assure you of, be found to be unquestionably true, then, I hope my humble address will not quite be unexceptionable to you ; and thus you will oblige, dear madam,

Your affectionate admirer,
and devoted servant.

LETTER LXXIX.

The answer.

Sir,

If modesty be the greatest glory in our sex, surely it cannot be blame-worthy in yours. For my own part, I must think it the most amiable quality either man or woman can possess; nor can there be, in my opinion, a true respect, where there is not a diffidence of one's own merit, and a high opinion of the persons we esteem.

To say more on this occasion, would little become me: to say less, would look as if I knew not how to pay that regard to modest merit, which modest merit only deserves.

You, sir, best know your own heart; and if you are sincere and generous, will receive, as you ought, this frankness from, sir,

Your humble servant.

LETTER LXXX.

From a gentleman to a lady, professing an aversion to the tedious forms of courtship.

Dear madam,

I recollect that one of the ancients in describing a youth in love, says, he has neither wisdom enough to speak, nor to hold his tongue. If this be a just description, the sincerity of my passion will admit of no dispute: and whenever in your company I behave like a fool, forget not that you are answerable for my incapacity. Having made bold to declare thus much, I must presume to say, that a favourable reception of this

will, I am certain, make me more worthy of your notice ; but your disdain would be what I believe myself unable ever to surmount. To try by idle fallacies, and airy compliments, to prevail on your judgment, is a folly for any man to attempt who knows you. No, madam, your good sense and endowments have raised you far above the necessity of practising the artifices which prevail upon the less deserving of your sex : you are not to be so lightly deceived ; and if you were, give me leave to say, I should not think you deserving of the trouble that would attend such an attempt.

This, I own, is no fashionable letter from one who, I am sure, loves up to the greatest hero of romance : but as I would hope that the happiness I sue for should be lasting, it is certainly most eligible to take no step to procure it but what will bear reflection ; for I should be happy to see you mine, even when we have both outlived the taste of every thing that has not virtue and reason to support it. I am, madam, notwithstanding this unpolished address,

Your most respectful admirer.

LETTER LXXXI.

The answer.

Sir,

I am very little in love with the fashionable methods of courtships ; sincerity with me is preferable to compliments ; yet I see no reason why common decency should be discarded. There is something so odd in your style, that when I know whether you are in jest or earnest, I shall be less at a loss to answer you. Meantime, as there is abundant room for

rising, rather than sinking, in your complaisance, you may possibly have chosen wisely to begin first at the lower end. If this be the case, I know not what your succeeding addresses may produce : but I tell you fairly, that your present makes no great impression, yet perhaps as much as you intend, on

Your humble servant.

LETTER LXXXII.

The gentleman's reply, more openly declaring his passion.

Dearest madam,

Now I have the hope of being not more despised for my acknowledged affection, I declare to you with all the sincerity of a man of honour, that I have long had a most sincere passion for you ; but I have seen gentlemen led such dances when they have given up their affections to the lovely tyrants of their hearts, and could not help themselves, that I had no courage to begin an address in the usual forms, even to you, of whose good sense and generosity I nevertheless had a good opinion. You have favoured me with a few lines which I most humbly thank you for. And I do assure you, madam, if you will be pleased to encourage my honourable suit, you shall have so just an account of my circumstances and pretensions, as I hope will entitle me to your favour in the honourable light in which I profess myself, dear madam,

Your most obliged and faithful servant.

Be so good as to favour me with one line more to encourage my personal attendance, if not disagreeable.

LETTER LXXXIII.

The lady's answer to his reply, putting the matter on a sudden issue.

Sir,

As we are both so well inclined to avoid unnecessary trouble, as well as unnecessary compliments, I think proper to acquaint you, that Mr. Dunford, of Winchester, has the management of my affairs; and is a man of such probity and honour, that I do nothing in any matters of consequence without him. I have no dislike to your person; and if you approve of what Mr. Dunford can acquaint you with in relation to me, and I approve of his report in your favour, I shall be far from showing any gentleman that I have either an insolent or sordid spirit, especially to such as do me the honour of their good opinion.

I am, sir,
Your humble servant

LETTER LXXXIV.

From a gentleman to a lady, requesting the favour of her company to an assembly.

Dear madam,

Having just received tickets for a ball, which is to be given next Tuesday night, at —, I request the honour of becoming your partner on the occasion, and assure you it shall be my chief pleasure to render you comfortable while under my protection. I have the honour to be,

Madam,
Your most obedient and devoted servant.

LETTER LXXXV.

The answer of compliance from the lady.

Truly sensible of the honour conferred upon me, and well assured of your honourable intentions, I readily accept of your polite offer, and shall be ready to receive you on the appointed evening.

I am, sir,

Your most obedient humble servant.

LETTER LXXXVI.

The answer, containing a negative from the lady.

Your polite favour of the ——— instant, I received this morning, and, as I always show my letters to my dear mother, without whose advice and concurrence I never go to any public place, she has desired me to return you many thanks for the honour intended me, and assure you that she has several insurmountable objections to my appearing in a strange party unaccompanied by any of my relatives or friends. She is convinced I should be perfectly safe under your protection, but insists upon my not breaking a rule, which, in obedience to her, I have always hitherto observed. That you may not be disappointed in a more worthy partner, I have given you this early notice, and trust, sir, for the reasons above-mentioned, you will excuse me for declining your polite invitation; for although I am sensible I should be much entertained during the evening, yet conscious what uneasiness my absence would give an affectionate parent, I could not possibly participate in the company's pleasure.

I am, sir, your most obedient servant.

LETTER LXXXVII.

From a gentleman to a lady, begging her acceptance of a present.

My dear ———,

Your acceptance of the trifle, herewith inclosed, will confer upon the donor much greater satisfaction than the receiver can possibly derive from it. I present it not for the sake of its value, but merely as a token of respect—a small test of that esteem which I have for your merit; and I trust, when absent, it will call to remembrance that undisguised friendship which I possess for the most worthy of her sex. Let no delicate punctilio raise any objection to this humble offer, but accept and wear it my dear ———, for the sake of one who is, and ever will be,

Your devoted servant.

LETTER LXXXVIII.

From the lady, accepting the present.

Truly sensible of the honour conferred upon me, and the politeness with which it was attended, I accept your handsome gift with many thanks, and shall always prize it as the gift of friendship; I regret, however, that you should put yourself to so much expense, as a ——— of inferior quality would have been equally acceptable, and I should have considered myself as much

Your obliged friend.

LETTER LXXXIX.

From a gentleman to a young lady, requesting her company to a play.

Dear miss,

Having taken a few tickets for Mr. Shuter's benefit, next week, I should be particularly happy if honoured with your company on the occasion; and am fully persuaded, from the merits of the actor, and the choice which he has made, that you will be agreeably entertained throughout the evening.

I am, dear miss,

Your most obedient and devoted servant.

LETTER XC.

From a lady, returning a present.

Sir,

I return you many thanks for your polite offer, and trust you will not be offended at my declining it. Prudence forbids my acceptance of any present from a gentleman, however kindly intended. Your motives, I doubt not, are both honourable and sincere, upon reflection, you will not, cannot esteem me the less for adhering to that decorum which should always be the rule of our sex. The penetrating eye of the world is always fixed upon a woman's conduct; and the smallest lapse, the least deviation from propriety, subjects her to the loud clamour of detraction. Though her actions be innocent, if appearances do not corroborate that innocence, the scrutinizing world is sure to arraign her, and the envious and invidious, being on such occasions the

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jury, she is found guilty upon circumstantial evidence. These remarks, I trust, will be a sufficient apology for returning your kind present, particularly as I here assure you, that I shall always think myself as much indebted as if I had accepted it, and a great deal more if you will not attempt to urge it.

Your obliged servant.

LETTER XCI.

From a gentleman to a lady, disclosing his passion.

Madam,

Those only who have suffered them, can tell the unhappy moments of hesitative uncertainty which attend the formation of a resolution to declare the sentiments of affection. I, who have felt their greatest and most acute torments, could not, previous to my experience, have formed the remotest idea of their severity. Every one of those qualities in you, which claim my admiration, increases my diffidence, by showing the great risk I run, in venturing, perhaps, before my affectionate assiduities have made the desired impression on your mind, to make a declaration of the ardent passion I have long since felt for you.

My family and connexions are so well known to you, that I need say nothing of them; if I am disappointed of the place I hope to hold in your affections, I trust this step will not draw on me the risk of losing the friendship of yourself and family, which I value so highly, that an object less ardently desired, or really estimable, could not induce me to take a step by which it should be in any manner hazarded.

I am, madam,

Your affectionate admirer and sincere friend. 91

LETTER XCII.

The answer.

Sir,

I take the earliest opportunity of acknowledging the receipt of yours, and the obligations I feel to you for the sentiments expressed in it; and assure you, that whatever may be the event of your solicitations in another quarter, the sentiments of friendship I feel from a long acquaintance with you, will not be in any manner altered.

There are many points besides mere personal regard to be considered; these I must refer to the superior knowledge of my father and brother, and if the result of their inquiries are such as my presentiments suggest, I have no doubt my happiness will be attended to by permission to decide for myself.

At all events, I shall never cease to feel obliged by a preference in itself sufficiently flattering, and rendered still more so by the handsome manner in which it is expressed; and I hope, if my parents should see cause to decline the proposed favour of your alliance, it will not produce such disunion between our families, as to deprive us of friends, who possess a great portion of our esteem and regard.

I am, sir, your obliged and sincere friend.

LETTER XCIII.

From a widow to a young gentleman, rejecting his suit.

Sir,

The objections I have to make to the proposal contained in your letter are but few, but

they demand some attention, and will, I believe, be rather difficult to obviate.

You are, by your own account, two-and-twenty, I am by mine, six-and-forty; you are too young to know the duties of a father; I have a son who is seventeen, and consequently too old to learn the duties of a son from one so little senior to himself. Thus much with respect to age. As to the little fortune I possess, I consider myself merely trustee for my children, and will not, therefore, impose on you, by acceding to the common report, that I am rich. However, as you have borne a lieutenant's commission these three years, as you tell me, you may, perhaps, have reserved, out of the profits of that, a sufficient sum to obviate every difficulty on that head.

I will press these subjects no farther; when you can convince me, that, in point of age, fortune, and morals, you are such a person as I can, without reproach, take for a husband, and admit as a guardian to my children, I shall cease to think, as I now candidly confess I do, that motives, far from honourable, or of disinterested love, have influenced your application: till that happens, I must regret that an ill-timed effort of gallantry, on your part, deprives me of the pleasure of subscribing myself,

Your sincere friend and humble servant

LETTER XCIV.

From a servant's late master to a gentleman.

Sir,

In answer to yours of the twentieth instant, wherein you request a faithful character of

the bearer, I assure you, upon my honour, that his diligence, and knowledge of the business he professes, together with sobriety and honesty, entitle him much to notice; he has been in my service upwards of six years, and it was with the greatest regret that I parted with him.

Yours, &c.

LETTER XCV.

From a gentleman, on the same occasion.

Sir,

I think it my duty, in reply to your very polite address of the 9th instant, candidly to inform you, that I discharged Thomas, my late servant, who lived with me only one month, for his continued inebriety, which rendered him totally incapable of doing his duty.

I am, sir, yours, &c.

LETTER XCVI.

From a young lady to a gentleman, declining his addresses.

Sir,

How extremely sorry am I that any part of my conduct, which was only meant to convey general politeness and respect to the friends of my father, should have been so misconstrued as to have afforded grounds for the hopes expressed in yours which I have just received. I have, therefore, to thank you for the politeness of your letter, and to inform you that I feel no sentiment in my mind which should induce you to persevere in a suit which can only end in disappointment and rejection.

I cannot omit to notice an insinuation in yours, respecting a supposed pre-engagement on my part ; whether such a hint proceeds from vanity or misinformation it is equally injurious and indelicate. Two persons only have a right to interrogate me on such a subject ; to you my only answer must be, that taking your supposition in the affirmative, you have no reason to hope to supplant the object of my predilection : or taking the negative, my mind is not so entirely vacant, that your idea is absolutely necessary to prevent total vaquidity. Wishing you more success in another quarter,

I remain, sir, yours, &c.

LETTER XCVII.

From a young lady in town to her friend in the country.

Amid the hurry and bustle of a town life, I seize the earliest opportunity of assuring you, my dear friend, that not all the variety of scenes and amusements which this extensive metropolis affords, can make me forget her : no, my dear, I often lament your absence, and confess that I am already become weary of London. Pleasure loses its name when too often repeated, and I now heartily wish to return to my former retirement, and enjoy the more solid delights of quietude and friendship. I have visited all the theatres, where sometimes I have been entertained, but more frequently disgusted with five act farces—the comedies of the day—and childish spectacles ; the last I find is the general rage, and for

these, indeed, the winter houses are only adapted; such being their magnitude, my dear, they are only calculated for pageantry; we may see in them, but not *hear*. As to visits, I have paid innumerable; indeed, I am obliged to accept of invitations against my will; thus, my dear, I find new friends every day, but surely there can be no stability in friendship of this nature. I sat down with the intention of writing a long letter, but the continual interruptions of this place will not permit me; you have no excuse, let me hear from you then as often as possible, which believe me will be more gratifying than all the pleasures of town, to your sincere and affectionate friend.

LETTER XCVIII.

The answer to the preceding.

So soon tired of London, the land of arts, of elegance, and fashion! Ah! my friend, how charming would that variety be to me, of which you are now become weary. What can I write to you about, who am immured in the country? I see only the same meadows, the same gardens, the same walks which I have traced so often; I meet with no strange faces, I partake of no recreation, and, since your departure, the place, I think, is more intolerable. I heard our good old parson (who by-the-bye wants a change of sermons, for there is no variety here, my dear) say that it is the misfortune of us mortals (women I suppose are particularly included) to be dissatisfied with their allotted situations; thus it is you are tired of London, and I am tired of the country—and probably were we to change

stations, the same dissatisfaction would be soon expressed on both sides ; but no more moralizing ; one thing I am sure I should never be tired of, and that is your company. When, therefore, you are pleased to return, be assured, my dear, that no one here will feel greater satisfaction at seeing you, than

Your truly affectionate and sincere friend.

LETTER XCIX.

From a young lady to another, on the fashions.

My dear girl,

Assured of your friendship, which I have experienced on many occasions, I take the liberty of adding to my former requests. There is a person here in this small market town, who has set up, almost opposite me, in haberdashery and fancy-dress making ; I entreat, therefore, you will transmit me an account, and, if possible, patterns of every new fashion. Do you know of any thing particular that appeared the last birthday ? You, who frequent the playhouses, and other public places, can be of infinite service to me in this respect ; I must be doubly diligent now to insure the custom I have already obtained ; for should my rival be beforehand with me in this respect, fashion being the idol of my sex, I shall certainly lose the patronage of many respectable families. By complying, therefore, with this request, you will add to the many obligations of

Yours, most sincerely.

LETTER C.

*From a gentleman whose wife was lately dead,
to a clergyman in the neighbourhood.*

Reverend sir,

You have often, both in public and private, enlarged on those comforts and consolations which Christianity affords to the afflicted; and if ever they were necessary to one under those circumstances, they must be to myself. About seven, last night, my wife died in child-bed, and I am left the disconsolate parent of five young children. Had you seen the excruciating tortures under which she expired, it would have reminded you of the emphasis of that curse pronounced upon our first parents, for their rebellion against God. When she saw the king of terrors approach, she was all resignation to the divine will, and left this lower world in the same manner, and with the same cheerful alacrity, as if she had been going to visit a friend, or attend the service of her Maker. Overwhelmed with grief, I entered her chamber, when she exerted the small remains of strength, and spoke to me as follows:—

My dear,

I am now going the way of all flesh, but God, the everlasting God, will be your comfort. When I first became yours, I looked for all the happiness consistent with the state of human nature in this vale of misery; and I must confess that my highest wishes have been gratified, and your tenderness has been more than I could expect. You may have seen faults in my conduct, but I do assure you (and is this a time to dissemble?) they were alto-

gether involuntary. My principal study was to obtain the favour of that God before whom I am soon to appear. My obedience to the commands of my God have been attended with many imperfections, but I trust for pardon and acceptance in the merits of my dear Redeemer. Here she fainted—looked wishfully at me, and shed a tear over her dear children, who were crying by her bed. She attempted to speak, but in vain. At last, fixing her eyes towards heaven, she repeated those beautiful words—“into thy hands I commit my soul, for thou hast redeemed me, O thou God of my salvation,” and then closed her eyes, never to be opened till the sound of the last trumpet. I was sunk for some time in the greatest distress, looking on the dear departed remains of my beloved wife, and endeavouring to silence, by persuasion, the cries of her orphan children. At last I recollected that I had still a friend left in you, to whom I might, with a view of consolation, lay open the inmost recesses of my heart. I am afraid your indisposition may hinder you from visiting me, and if so, let me beg that you will, in the meantime, favour me with a few lines. At present, every sort of consolation will be acceptable, but whatever comes from you will be doubly so. I know not what I write: excuse incoherence and impropriety from one, whom you have often honoured with the appellation of friend.

I am, &c.

LETTER CI.

The clergyman's answer.

My dear friend,

I sincerely commiserate your melancholy calamity, and wish there was any thing in my

power that could alleviate your distress. You well know that all affliction, of whatever kind it is, proceeds from God—"I create light and make darkness, I make war and peace; I the Lord do all these things." This, sir, should be your first consideration, and this should regulate the whole of your conduct.

It was this consideration which reconciled old Eli to the severest doom that perhaps was ever denounced. Though contrary to human nature, and much more so to natural affection, yet "it is the Lord, let him do what shall seem good."

This reconciled Job to all his unparalleled sufferings, "the Lord giveth, the Lord taketh away;" rapacious hands, and waving elements, were only instruments of his power, therefore, I bless and adore his holy name. This consolation fortified the man Christ Jesus on the approach of his inconceivable bitter agony. But it is my father's pleasure, and not the malice of my enemies, therefore "not my will, but his be done."

If your father, dear sir, your heavenly father, who loves you with an everlasting love, has thought proper to mix some gall with your portion of life, sensible of the beneficent hand from which your visitation comes, may you bow your head in awful silence, and say with the afflicted Hezekiah of old, "Good is the word of the Lord concerning me."

Afflictions indeed are often accompanied with many valuable benefits, as David said, "it is good for me that I have been afflicted, for before that I went astray."

Afflictions serve to wean us from the world. When every thing runs smoothly, and nothing interrupts the present enjoyments, we are apt to forget the God that made us, and say, with matchless assurance, "who is the Almighty that should serve him?"

Afflictions serve to lead us to value the blessings of Christianity, and to hold in the lowest estimation our own worthiness. When sorrows harass, and our circumstances trouble and oppress our minds, we are glad, we are earnest to find rest in Christ. The severe afflictions under which I have so long laboured, hinders me from seeing you, although I shall take the first opportunity of doing so, when it pleases God to restore me again to health. In the meantime, I have sent you a copy of Fleetwood's Life of Christ. A careful perusal of that valuable work will reconcile you to the various dispensations of Providence, especially when you consider the character of the Redeemer, who suffered so much for us. He bore our griefs and carried our sorrows. "He was a man of sorrow, and acquainted with grief."

From these considerations, my dear friend, endeavour to reconcile yourself to this awful dispensation of Providence: I am sensible of your loss, but you know not what God may yet have in store for you. Perhaps he has only deprived you of one mercy in order to bestow another. I doubt not, but the Almighty has thousands of mercies yet in store for you, both in time and eternity, and that period is fast approaching when you yourself must put off this earthly tabernacle, and pay that debt to nature which your beloved spouse has already done. Let your care at present be, to attend to the education of your children. Your duty is now doubly increased, and all that was incumbent on your beloved spouse, is now transferred to yourself; but the blessings of the Almighty will be bestowed in proportion to your cheerful obedience. It is a great comfort that your beloved wife died in the faith

and fear of the dear Redeemer, and it will be the greatest honour you ever can acquire, to instruct your children in those principles that made the prospect of death agreeable, and even welcome to their mother: so that when the great God shall appear to judge the world, you may be able to stand before him and say, here I am, and the children which thou hast given me. Thus, sir, I have said all that I can imagine on the present melancholy occasion. But how comfortable are those words of St. Paul, "Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, shall work out for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."

The things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal. There is nothing permanent or lasting in this world, and the tall oak is as easily cut down by the hand of Omnipotence as the plant is plucked up. I feel myself growing weak, and must conclude—May God, who has thought proper to afflict you, continue to support you under this and every other trial, till you arrive at last in the kingdom, "where the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary are at rest," is the sincere prayer of,

Your most affectionate friend.

LETTER CII.

From a gentleman of decayed circumstances, to another, lately returned from abroad, recommending his son to his protection.

Sir,

I was much pleased to hear of your arrival, but more so, that you had acquired an ample fortune. You knew me, when my circum-

stances were not only easy, but rich ; and you also knew that, at that time, I was glad of every opportunity of assisting my friends. But, alas ! I am now quite in a different situation. By the loss of a ship from Jamaica, I was obliged to stop payment, and give up all to my creditors, who have very generously allowed me a small annuity for my subsistence. When that fatal event took place, I retired into the country with my wife and children, and my time has since been spent in superintending their education. The bearer, my eldest son, is just twenty, and is very desirous of going to the East Indies ; but my circumstances are such, that it is not in my power to give him any assistance, nor indeed do I know in what manner to proceed, in an affair of so much importance. The friendship which existed between us before you left England, gives me some encouragement to hope, that your elevation to affluence will not make any alteration in your sentiments towards me, notwithstanding the depressed situation to which I am reduced. I rather think that my present circumstances will plead more powerfully in favour of the youth, than if he was supported by the whole body of directors. I have given him an education, perhaps, beyond my circumstances, and suitable, I hope, to any situation in the mercantile world. His morals, so far as I know, are pure, and I doubt not but his conduct will give satisfaction ; if, therefore, you will be pleased, either to take him under your own direction, or instruct him in what manner to proceed, in order to promote his interest, you will confer an everlasting obligation on

Your very humble servant.

LETTER CIII.

The answer to the preceding.

Dear sir,

When I read your affecting letter, I scarce knew whether I was more grieved to hear of your distressed circumstances, or filled with shame and confusion that I had been three months in England, and had never inquired for one who had not only treated me with humanity, but even assisted me in making my first voyage to the Indies. Your house was an asylum to me when I was utterly destitute, and I should consider myself as an object of the utmost abhorrence if I hesitated one moment in complying with your request, relating to the amiable youth who brought me the letter. But in what light must I consider myself, was my gratitude to the best of men confined to a favour that would cost me nothing, or what I would grant even to a stranger! No, sir, I am sensible of benefits received, and should consider myself as a mean abject wretch, if I did not acknowledge them with gratitude. I have just been with your son to the directors, and he is engaged as a writer at Bengal. If the climate agrees with his constitution, there is no fear but he will soon acquire a considerable fortune. I have deposited five hundred pounds in the hands of the supercargo for his use, which you know is more than I had when I first embarked for that part of the world. But still I should consider myself as acting very partially, if, whilst I am making provision for the son, I should forget his aged parents. The ships for India do not sail till March, so that your son will have at least three months to remain with you before he embarks. He sets off with the coach to-morrow, and I have en

trusted him with something for your immediate use. I intend calling to spend a few days with you next month, and be assured, that nothing in my power shall ever be wanting to make your life as agreeable as possible. I have not swerved so far from the principles of a virtuous education, as to look with indifference on the various dispensations of Providence. How true is that saying of the wise man, "The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong!" As human wisdom cannot discern the progress to earthly grandeur, so the prudence of man is not always able to guard against calamitous events. I am therefore determined not to place any confidence in the riches of this world, but only consider myself as the steward of that all-bountiful God from whom I have received them. This is my fixed resolution, and I hope no allurement whatever will tempt me to deviate from it.

I am, dear sir, your sincere friend.

LETTER CIV.

From a clergyman in the country, to a lady in London, on the death of a valuable friend.

Madam,

Death, that king of terrors, having pierced with his fatal shaft the heart of the generous Pollio, I went to pay my last duties to my deceased friend; but who can describe that torrent of grief which overwhelmed my breast on my arrival at the house of mourning. He had just completed an ample and commodious seat, but was not permitted to spend one joyful hour under its roof. His gardens were planted with the choicest fruits, and decorated in the most

graceful manner : but their master is gone down to the valley of the shadow of death.

Since death is the portion of every individual, we should engrave the thoughts of it in the most legible characters on the tablets of our memories. We see our neighbours fall, we turn pale at the shock, and feel a trembling dread ! No sooner are they removed from our sight, but driven with the whirlwind of business, or lulled in the langour of pleasure, we forget Providence, and neglect its errand. The impression made on our unstable minds, is as transient as an arrow penetrating through the air, or the path of a keel in the furrows of the deep. Did we reflect seriously on the numberless disasters, such as no human prudence can foresee, nor the greatest care prevent, that lie in wait to accomplish our doom, we should be obliged to look upon ourselves as tenants at will, and liable to be dispossessed of our earthly tabernacle at a moment's warning. The last enemy has not only numberless avenues for his approach, but even holds his fortress in the seat of life itself. The crimson fluid which distributes health, is impregnated with the seeds of death ! Some unforeseen impediment may obstruct its passage or some unexpected violence may divert its course : in either of which cases it acts the same as a poisonous draught or deadly wound. The partition, which separates time from eternity, is nothing more than the breath of our nostrils, and the transition may be made in the least moment of time.

If we examine the records of mortality, we shall find the memorials of a mixed multitude resting together, without any regard to rank or seniority. None are ambitious of the uppermost rooms, or chief seats, in the mansions of the dead. None entertain sound and eager expect-

ations of being honourably greeted in their darksome cells. The man of years and experience, reputed as an oracle in his generation, is content to lie down at the feet of the babe. In this common receptacle, the master is equally accommodated with his servant. The poor indigent lies as softly as the more opulent possessor. All the distinction that subsists is a grassy hillock bound with osiers, or a sepulchral stone.

Why then should we raise such a mighty stir about superiority and precedence, when the next remove will reduce us all to a state of equal meanness? Why should we exalt ourselves and debase others, since we must all one day lie upon a common level? We must all be blended together in the same common dust. Here persons of contrary interests, and different sentiments, sleep together. Death having laid his hands on the contending parties, and brought all their difference to an amicable conclusion.

Eternity! how are our boldest, our strongest thoughts, lost and overwhelmed in thee? Who can set land-marks to limit thy dimensions, or find plummets to fathom thy depths? What numbers can state, what lines can gauge the lengths and breadths of eternity? Mysterious mighty existence! When ages numerous as the bloom of spring, increased by the herbage of the summer, both augmented by the leaves of autumn, and all multiplied by the drops of rain which fall in winter—ten thousand more than can be represented by any similitude, or imagined by any conception, are all revolved in eternity! After all those numerous ages are expired, eternity is only beginning.

I am, madam,

Your sincere, though afflicted friend.

LETTER CV

From a gentleman to his friend, on prejudice.

Sir,

I was lately in company with several gentlemen, and as the conversation turned upon a variety of subjects, I was much surprised to find every one prejudiced to his own favourite opinion, without being able to assign a reason why they could so hastily take upon themselves to dogmatize with so much assurance.

Among the various errors, into which human nature is liable to fall, there are some which people of a true understanding are perfectly sensible of in themselves, yet either wanting a strength of resolution to break through what, by long custom, has become habitual, or being of too indolent a temper to attempt an alteration, still persist to act in contradiction to the dictates of even their own reason and judgment. What we call prejudice or prepossession, is certainly that which stands foremost in the rank of servility. It is the great ringleader of almost all the errors we are guilty of, whether in the sentiments of our hearts, or the conduct of our actions. As milk is the first nourishment of the body, so prejudice is the first thing given to the mind to feed upon. No sooner does the thinking faculty begin to operate than prejudice mingles with it, and spoils its operations; whatever we are either taught, or happen of ourselves to like or dislike, we, for the most part, continue to applaud or condemn to our life's end. So difficult is it to eradicate, in age, those sentiments imbibed in our youth.

It is this fatal propensity which binds, as it were, our reason in chains, and will not suffer it to look abroad, or exert any of its powers: hence

are our conceptions bounded ;—our notions meanly narrow ;—our ideas, for the most part, unjust ; and our judgment shamefully led astray. The brightest rays of truth in vain shine upon our minds, when prejudice has shut our eyes against them. We are even rendered by it wholly incapable of examining any thing, and take all upon trust that it presents us. This not only makes us liable to be guilty of injustice, ill-nature, and ill-manners to others, but also insensible of what is owing to ourselves, we run with all our might from a real and substantial good, and court an empty name, a mere nothing. We mistake infamy for renown, and ruin for advantage ; in short, where a strong prejudice prevails, all is sure to go amiss.

What I would be understood to mean by the word prejudice, is not the liking or disliking, which naturally arises on the sight of any new object presented to us. As, for example, we may happen to fall into the company of two persons equally deserving, and equally strangers to us, and with neither of whom we either have, or expect to have, the least concern ; yet shall we have, without being able to give any reason for it, greater good wishes for the one than the other, which is occasioned by that sympathy which nature has implanted in all created beings. This, therefore, is what we call fancy, and is very different from prejudice, as that enters chiefly through the ears. When our notions of persons or things, which we of ourselves know nothing of, are guided, and our approbation or disapprobation excited, merely by what we are told, and which afterwards we refuse to be convinced is false, then it is that we may be said to be governed by that settled prepossession so dangerous to society, to our character, interest, and happiness ; for

the other is light, volatile, and comparatively of little consequence.

To avoid being led away by such a dangerous error, we should take nothing upon trust. Whether in the study of the arts, or in our inquiries concerning religion, politics, or any thing else, we should sit down with a determined resolution to hear both sides impartially, and to be directed by that which our reason most approves. Had not some great persons divested themselves of prejudices, we had never been favoured with all those valuable improvements in experimental philosophy, made in late years in different parts of Europe. After all, it is no easy matter to divest ourselves of acquired prejudices ; and it is a melancholy reflection, that part, so great a part of our years are spent in adopting such fatal notions, that there is scarce time left to eradicate them.

I am, sir, your sincere friend.

LETTER CVI.

From a gentleman, on the necessity of being virtuous in our youth.

Dear sir,

Man is the only creature in the world whose happiness is imperfect, and who, at the same time, is sensible that it is so ; who has something in him that disdains the imperfection of his own being, and languishes after a more perfect condition. Were he, like other animals, composed only of flesh and blood, he would find no more fault with his being than they do with theirs, matter alone being incapable of reflection ; these, sir, are the secret

repinings of the soul, by which she evidently discovers her existence. And, since it is natural for all beings to seek and thirst after happiness, it is necessary to know where that seat is fixed, it being the want of that knowledge that makes us waste so much time in vain pursuits, and unprofitable attempts, in endeavouring to confine happiness to the body, which is, as it were, a prison too weak to hold it—and the senses that conduct it thither, are too feeble long to guard and retain it; it is constantly endeavouring to make its escape, and what is worse, it never fails in accomplishing its aim. Besides, if it had no other existence than the body, it must be very transitory, and perish with it in a contemptible portion of time. A man of that opinion must be sure to keep his thoughts always steadily confined within the compass of this life and world; for, if they happen to wander beyond these limits they will enter into dark uncomfortable regions, affording nothing but black and dismal prospects, as too many gay unthinking persons find by sad experience. Now virtue, the true source of happiness, will give us juster notions of it, and teach us that the true seat of happiness is in the soul, which is of a capacity large enough to contain it, and of a duration lasting enough to preserve it to eternity; there it may rise to unmeasurable heights without restraint; it can never overburden or overpower the soul. It is the poor feeble body only, that is not able to support it, that is too weak to bear the rapid and violent motions of the soul, when it is filled and agitated with excessive joy. The heart is capable of bearing but a small insignificant measure of joy, it may be easily destroyed by irresistible efforts. The heart is equally incapable of supporting immo-

derate joy or immoderate grief: the one proves destructive by too great a dilation, and the other by too great a depression. Which soever of them happens in an immoderate degree, the frail vessel is broken, and life gushes in a torrent through the wound. It is a preposterous resolution of some people to defer being virtuous till they grow old, imagining that wisdom is the natural consequence of old age; as if that which is the greatest imperfection of human nature, were most proper to confer on us the highest perfection of it. Long observation, indeed, is productive of experience; but experience is very different from wisdom, though it is the utmost advantage old age can pretend to bestow upon us. Now it must be considered, that virtue is a habit of mind, which must be acquired by industry and application; to be forcibly introduced into the soul, in opposition to vice; and after it has gotten a long and undisturbed possession of it, must be attended with great difficulty, and requires a persevering resolution. It is not to be effected in a small interval of time; the approaches must be regular and gradual to dislodge so potent an enemy. It is a task that requires the vigour of youth, and more time than old age has to bestow.

The chief end of a virtuous life is to give us as near a resemblance as possible to the divine nature—to make us pure, as he is pure; that is, to raise us to the utmost degree of purity our frail nature is capable of. Now, the deferring this work till we grow old, is resolving to be as unlike God as possible: it is a confident, but very ridiculous assurance, that old age will help our deformity, and give us a very good resemblance of him, and in an instant confer upon us purity like his, after we have wilfully passed over our whole life in contracting pollution. But

can we think that, when the purest and most sprightly part of life has been prostituted to vice, the dregs are an offering fit for our Maker! And can we think that he will accept of such a sacrifice!

It is then our highest wisdom to tread the paths of virtue in the morning of our days, that the evening may terminate with a smiling serenity; and, when the struggles of reluctant nature are over, the soul may securely wing its way to the settled regions of unmolested security.

I am, &c.

LETTER CVII.

*From a lady in town to a friend in the country,
on marriage.*

Madam,

Marriage is despised by some, and by others too much coveted. The first sin against the law of nature, and divine ordination; the last too often against their own peace and happiness. For those that are in extraordinary haste for a settlement, do commonly extend their expectations beyond what they have possessed in a single life, and many times the imaginary heaven proves a hell. Though your changing your condition had an extraordinary prospect, yet I hear my last letter, which was to wish you joy, found you in sorrow: but I know you are too well principled not to remember, the time will come, "when the wicked shall cease from troubling, and the weary are at rest." For if your husband continues so industrious to torment you, as the world represents him, I believe you can expect but little rest till that time is come; unless it is by the inward peace of a good conscience, which none can take from you. This

is a consolation which clamorous wives always lose, and which can never be recompensed by any point they gain, however apparently for their advantage.

Since the laws of God and nature have given man the supreme authority in marriage, we ought not first to accept them upon those terms, and then mutiny upon all occasions. For though some men are so kind as to make our yoke light unto us ; yet we take them “for better or worse ;” and experience shows us that the odds are on the worst side. All this we should consider before we engage ourselves in those strict ties which oblige us to deny our own inclinations, and to comply with those of our husbands.

Indeed, human policy ought to teach us the lesson ; for if we make a man's home less agreeable to him than any other place, we furnish him with a good excuse for going abroad, which can never be to our mutual advantage. Those men whom business does not call out to get money, are generally on the spend ; and he that is driven from home by a wife's ill humour is always more extravagant abroad, and even thinks he has a better pretence to be so, while he sacrifices his body and soul, as well as his estate, to his revenge.

Some women, indeed, will divert themselves, and not seem to mind it ; and instead of endeavouring to win their husbands by complaisance, turn as extravagant as they ; or, as the proverb says, “they light the candle at both ends,” though they know it must at last burn their own fingers. However, they seldom fail of suffering by their rashness ; and the further they run out, the sooner they find a check upon their expenses ; besides, if they should preserve their honesty, yet they undergo

the certain loss of their reputation, which is infinitely more valuable to them than any thing else in the world; and although, by such a conduct, they may think to reclaim the men, yet "they ought not to do evil that good may come."

But I most of all wonder at some of our acquaintance, who seem to be sober women, and yet recommend it, as the best way to deal with a passionate husband, to be more unreasonable than he: such a conduct may silence some men, and might be pardonable, if God, as well as man, were to be silenced by it. But our religion tells us, "we must not be overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." An evil tongue never appears so odious as in the mouth of a passionate woman, railing against her husband. We commonly say that a madman is possessed, and every one that is not in a rage himself, will allow passion to be a temporary madness, which makes men act as irrationally as lunatics, although they have not the same excuse to plead: such unhappy persons will tell you, that passion is a natural infirmity; a violent distemper which they strive against, and therefore they ought to be excused; but let them remember that their conduct is the more unjustifiable, as they are sensible of their folly. If a husband is unkind and cruel, it is a great affliction, and the scriptures tell us, all things of that nature are grievous: but as contrary as they are to flesh and blood, yet they arise not from the dust, and that it is not for us to contend with our Maker. He that can with a word control the fury of the winds and seas, can with as little trouble avert any storm that threatens, when he sees us fit objects of mercy. For if we attempt to shake off the yoke, or think by struggling to make the chain sit looser upon us, we shall soon be convinced of our error, like

birds taken in a net, who, by beating their feathers off, increase their misery, and at the same time disable themselves from making their escape. Those amongst us that know we have been so obliging as never to deserve an ill word from our persecutors, should remember, that still we deserve God's chastisements; and that wicked and unreasonable men are a sword of his which wounds us the deeper, the more we love the hand which he employs for our correction.

I am, dear madam, yours, &c.

LETTER CVIII.

From a gentleman to a distressed friend, who had been endeavouring to conceal his poverty.

Dear sir,

I am extremely concerned to find you have so ill an opinion of me as to hide your misfortunes, and let me hear of them from another hand. I know not how to interpret your conduct, as it makes me fear you never esteemed my friendship, if you could imagine that any alteration in your circumstances should ever be able to change my love. I had a different opinion of our mutual obligations to each other, and should have thought it an injury to your generous nature, had I concealed any thing concerning myself from you, though it might have lessened me in your esteem. I hoped, till now, you had put the same confidence in me, who had nothing to recommend me to your favour but plain sincerity of soul, and whose sole design was, to promote the happiness of my friend.

I dare not quarrel with you now, lest you should consider me as taking the advantage of

you in your present distress, and induce you to break off a correspondence as dear to me as ever; and this leads me to say something of real friendship in general. Real friendship is not confined to any station in life: it is common in the meanest cottage, and has even sometimes been found in the palace; simplicity of manners, and integrity in all our actions, naturally lead us to expect sincerity in the conduct of those with whom we are in any way connected. The imperfections incident to human nature are so numerous, that we are solicitous of finding some persons to whom we can unbosom our minds, and lay open the inmost recesses of our hearts. A real friend, in order to preserve the character he has assumed, will endeavour to discharge every duty incumbent upon him to all his fellow creatures.

At present, my dear friend, let my purse (however empty) be at your service, but let it never be more open than my heart. Conceal nothing from me, and all I have is yours. We were once friends, let us only remain so. Let the sincerity of my friendship be estimated only according to my actions, and if it shall appear that I have acted inconsistent with the sacred name of friendship, let me be for ever blotted out of your memory.

I am, your sincere well-wisher.

LETTER CIX.

Consolation on the death of a friend.

I should never have believed, madam, that one of your letters could have afflicted me, how bad news soever it had brought me. The bare sight of your writing seemed to me a remedy against every evil that I could imagine; but I

acknowledge to you it is an extreme grief that I have been informed of the loss we have had. Our friend was valuable in every respect ; she was beautiful, tender, generous, witty, and of so just a judgment, that she valued you above every thing in the world. She had over and above in dying, the only good quality which she wanted during her life ; that is, she bore with resolution a thing, the bare name of which had always made her tremble. She accompanied this greatness of soul with so truly a christian piety, that I think we ought not to mourn for her. It is loving her with too selfish an affection to be sorrowful when she leaves us in order to be better, and when she goes to enjoy in the other world a repose which she could never find in this. I shall endeavour to take advantage of the exhortation you give me to follow so good an example, and it will not be the first time that you have made me a better man. The troubles I have hitherto had will not ill assist your admonitions ; for I think, few things contribute more to make us die without reluctance, than to have no pleasure in life : not that I should be very glad to finish my career too hastily, seeing that you must return soon. You may guess whether it be easy for me to renounce the advantage of seeing you again, and of protesting to you to what a degree,

I am, &c.

LETTER CX.

On sickness and dying young.

You formerly observed to me, that nothing made a more ridiculous figure in a man's life, than the disparity we often find in him sick

and well: thus one of an unfortunate constitution is perpetually exhibiting a miserable example of the weakness of his mind, and of his body, in their turns. I have had frequent opportunities of late to consider myself in these different views, and I hope have received some advantage by it, if what Waller says be true, that

“The soul's dark cottage battered and decayed,
Lets in new light through chinks that time has made.”

Then surely sickness contributing no less than old age to the shaking down this scaffolding of the body, may discover the inward structure more plainly. Sickness is a sort of early old age: it teaches us a diffidence in our earthly state, and inspires us with the thoughts of a future, better than a thousand volumes of philosophers and divines; it gives so great a concussion to those props of our vanity, our strength and youth, that we then think of fortifying ourselves within, where there is so little dependence upon our outworks. Youth at the very best is but a betrayer of human life in a more gentle and smooth manner than age: it is like a stream that nourishes a plant upon a bank, and causes it to flourish and blossom to the sight, but at the same time it is undermining it at the root in secret. My youth has dealt more fairly and openly with me; it has afforded several prospects of my danger, and given me an advantage not very common to young men, that the attraction of the world have not dazzled me very much; and I begin where most people end, with a full conviction of the emptiness of all sorts of ambition, and the unsatisfactory nature of all human pleasure. When a smart fit of sickness tells me this tenement of my body will shortly fall, I am as unconcerned as was

that honest Hibernian, who being in bed in the great storm some years ago, and told the house would tumble over his head, made answer, "What care I for that? I am only a lodger." I fancy it is the best time to die when one is in the best humour; and so excessively weak as I now am, I may say, with conscience, that I am not at all uneasy at the thought that many men, whom I never had any esteem for, are likely to enjoy this world after me. When I reflect what an inconsiderable little atom every single man is, with respect to the whole creation, methinks it is a shame to be concerned at the removal of such a trivial animal as I am. The morning after my exit, the sun will rise as bright as ever, the flowers smell as sweet, the plants spring as green, the world will proceed in its old course, people will laugh as heartily, and marry as fast as they used to do. The memory of man (as it is elegantly expressed in the book of wisdom) passeth away as the remembrance of a guest that tarrieth but one day. There are reasons enough in the fourth chapter of the same book, to make any young man contented with the prospect of death. "For honourable age is not that which standeth in length of time, or is measured by number of years," &c.

I am, yours, &c.

LETTER CXI.

To a lady, who had lost her beauty by the small pox.

My dear ———,

I received yours, and rejoice too much in your recovery, to be able to condole with you on any alteration your late illness has made in

you ; and, indeed, how great soever it may be, am far from thinking it deserves to be mentioned with that concern you express. You have encountered death, and foiled him at one of his sharpest weapons ; and if you have received some scars, you ought to look upon them rather as trophies of victory, than blemishes. What if your complexion has lost some part of its fair enamel, and your features are not altogether so delicate—the less charms your glass presents you with, the more you will find in your closet ; and, deprived of vain pleasure in contemplating the graces of your outward form, you will have the greater leisure to improve and embellish those which are not so easily impaired.

Let us pretend what we will, it is the ambition of attracting admirers, that renders beauty of so much value to all the young and gay ; but if we consider seriously, we shall find that it is virtue, good sense, sweetness of disposition, and complaisance, of which the girdle of Cytheria should be composed. The finest face in the world without them, will not long maintain its empire over the heart of a man of understanding, as the poet truly says—

“Beauty soon grows familiar to the eye,
Virtue alone has charms which never die.”

Do not think, however, that I am glad to find you are more on a level, than before this accident, with the great part of our sex : I confess, the beauties of the person greatly contribute to set off and render those of the mind conspicuous, and for that reason should regret extremely any defect in the one, if I were not certain you had enough of the other to engross the whole attention of as many as know you ; and that they may every day increase in the

lustre of true dignity, is the most sincere wish of,

Yours, &c.

LETTER CXII.

On growing old.

My dear ———,

I have been thinking that human understanding is no less liable to be unhinged than the mechanism of the human frame. The least jar of a surprise puts it out of tune, and one cannot presently get into order again. We have certainly passions of the mind as well as diseases of the body, which we are not aware of, till some sudden accident calls them forth; and the one is no less capable of suspending the faculties of reason for a time, than the other is of obstructing that animal fluid, to the proper circulation of which we owe our health and vigour.

I was led into this reflection by catching myself in a folly which I shall not be much ashamed of confessing, since, on contemplating some passages my observation supplies me with, I find the foible inherent, in a more or less degree, to the whole species of human kind, though few are ingenuous enough to acknowledge it.

I was sitting yesterday in my parlour window looking carelessly on the people as they passed, when all at once a fellow abruptly presented himself before me, and cried, in a rough voice, Spectacles, madam, fine spectacles, and at the same time thrust a pair of those nose-saddles within the sash: you cannot imagine, dear Lucy, how I was shocked: I gave the man a short answer, and immediately drew

down the window. Good God! said I to myself, do I look old enough to be supposed to want spectacles, not considering it was the fellow's trade to offer them to every body, and that many people younger than myself were obliged to make use of them.—I ran however to my glass, and fancied I perceived what they call the crow's feet appearing at the corners of my eyes.—I looked, and looked again, and the more I did so, the more I thought these cruel marks of time were visible; and now recollecting that my last birth-day brought me into my one and thirtieth year, and that a very few more of them would rank me among the number of the aged, I fell into such a fit of the vapours as I had never before known. Is not this unaccountable? where now was my understanding? where my reason? the little share I have is sufficient to make me know, that whoever lives a great while in this world must grow old, and few of us there are who desire to die young: why was not this knowledge at hand to make me easy under the common course of nature?

I do assure you, I had grown two or three hours older, before I could bring myself to be reconciled with the apprehensions that every moment brought me nearer to that so much dreaded stage of life; but, thank heaven, I got the better of it at last, and laughed at the foolish part my imagination had been acting.

That we all, however, have a strong aversion to gray hairs and wrinkles, cannot be denied; and that to overcome the uneasiness their approach inflicts, requires the utmost exertion of our reason; yet is not this an inconsistency, a kind of absurdity in our habit of thinking? We ridicule a thousand lesser follies of mankind, yet pass over that which more than all deserves

censure, the being ashamed or afraid of attaining what all the world as well as ourselves would wish to arrive at. But we would live for ever if we could, and yet be always young ; we would annihilate the depredations of time from fifteen to sixty ; and even then not be content perhaps to be thought in our decline.

Were old age terrible to us merely as it is the forerunner of death, or as it is generally attended with infirmities which render life a burthen, I should not be so much surprised ; but, alas ! we see death and diseases seize on youth and strength ; no time of life is a security against either. Neither is it the apprehension of being deprived of what share of beauty nature may have bestowed upon us, that renders it so alarming, since that also may be lost by the small-pox, and a thousand other accidents. No, it is only the name, not the effects, we so much dread : and I believe most people would rather choose deformity with youth, than comeliness with old age.

This, and some other propensities of the mind, in my opinion, are sufficient to convince any thinking person of the impotence of human understanding, and oblige us all to own with the poet, that

“Reason in man is but a twinkling lamp
Of wandering life, that wakes and winks by turns ;
Fooling the follower betwixt shade and shining.”

You will imagine, by my being so serious, that I have not yet got over the fright the man put me into, and indeed I am not sure whether I have or not ; but be that as it will, I have resolution enough to wish, from the very bottom of my heart, that you and I may grow old in friendship, and that whatever effect time may have upon our persons, our minds may remain

now united, which will be a balance against
the mortifications in the power of the old gen-
tleman with the hour-glass. I am, &c.

LETTER CXIII.

Domestic rule the province of the wife.

Madam,

I must assert, that the right of directing domestic affairs, is, by the law of nature, in the woman ; and that we are perfectly qualified for the exercise of dominion, notwithstanding what has often been said by male cots to the contrary. Those who pretend to direct our bringing-up, seemed to have destined us to that power which they would afterward dispute. We are employed on our samplers, or diverting ourselves with our babies ; we pass from our mother's nursery to our own, and from imaginary visits to real ones, without fatiguing ourselves with a variety of unnecessary acquirements, on which the men most value themselves. Indeed, what I would condemn too eager a pursuit of, we are taught singing and dancing ; but what are these to the drudgery of schools and universities ? The business of a family, when thoroughly performed, takes up the whole of our time, and affords no room for any thing except innocent relaxations. We certainly then are more likely to understand domestic policy than the men, who have twenty other things to mind : a mere housewife, like a mere scholar, is fit for nothing else, I admit, and will make a man a very unsociable companion. But as some men of great application to their respective professions, have, notwithstanding, a very polite behaviour, so a woman may make the government of her house the principal care, without suffering

it to become the principal theme of her discourse ; nor do I think it at all necessary, that to establish a character as a manager, her husband should, twice or thrice a week, hear her scolding the servants. This is one of the great objections to female government, and our adversaries would fain present it as a thing as necessary to us as a standing army to the administration. But both may be calumnies, and the mere effects of a desire to get into other folks' places. Experience is wholly on our side ; for, wherever the master exceeds his proper sphere, and pretends to give law to the cook maid as well as the coachman, we observe a great deal of discord and confusion. When man, who is always a better judge when things are wrong, than of the method of setting them to rights, entrenches on the woman's province, it is the ready way to make the rest of the family despise them both. But when a woman of tolerable good sense is allowed to direct her house without control, all things go well ; she prevents even her husband's wishes, the servants know their business, and the whole family live easy and happy. It is with great concern that I perceive our sex, of late, inclined to mind any thing rather than their families, which inclination must have fatal consequences. Can there be any thing more honourable for a woman, than the right management of her family ? and it may be observed to them, that they must take their choice either to manage their children and servants, or to be managed by them. If liberty is the thing they aim at, they certainly mistake the road ; a woman's freedom consists in power, and not in a licence to gad about, which is scandalous even in a girl, and bespeaks a giddiness of soul below compassion. The conduct of the estate or business ought

surely to be in the husband ; and if he parts with it, it is an act of weakness ; the conduct of the house belongs as justly to the wife ; and no man ought to marry a woman whom he would not trust with the management of such concerns. Adieu, dear friend ! encroach not on the province of your husband, but continue to be mistress in your own. I am, &c.

LETTER CXIV.

From a clergyman to a young gentleman who had formerly been his pupil, but now at the university.

Dear sir,

Whilst you was under my care, I made it my principal study to discharge the duties of my station consistent with the character of a minister of the gospel ; and now that you are removed to the fountain head of learning, I consider myself in some manner still under the same obligation. In a letter I have lately received from your tutor, I hear, with much pleasure, that you make great progress in your studies. Although Providence has placed me at this distance, yet I have a strong inclination to communicate my thoughts to you on a subject of the utmost importance ; I mean the necessary obligation you are under of reducing knowledge to practice, and that unless the one corresponds with the other, learning, instead of a blessing, becomes a real curse. To different men, God has communicated different advantages. From pagans less is required than from christians, and as much less as they know less of their master's will : some are obliged to grope by the light of the moon and stars, and others are blessed with the light of the

sun. It is much more desirable to walk by the daylight than by moonlight. All however have light enough, if they rightly improve it, to enable them to find the way to God's favour. If there is any one who has no knowledge given him, he is not a moral agent, and nothing can be expected from him. But this cannot be supposed of any reasonable creature. There is no person so ignorant as not to have some knowledge of moral good and evil; and his acceptance and happiness depend on his acting up to this knowledge, whatever it is, and not on his acting up to any more extensive knowledge, which others, in more advantageous circumstances have.

The most knowing ought to be the most virtuous; but instead of this they are very often the most vicious. They employ their knowledge not to amend their hearts, or restrain their passions, but to gain applause, or to overreach and deceive. They make use of it for ostentation or mischief, and not for directing them in a course of upright and useful conduct. We can never conclude what a man's character is from the parts he possesses, or the opinion he holds. Nothing is more common than for men to believe one thing and to practice the contrary. The best sentiment may have possession of their heads, while the vilest dispositions govern their actions. We see frequently that those who imbibe the best principles, and make the fairest professions, are very wicked and worthless. In short, it is one of the most undeniable truths, that we may have all the faith and knowledge in the world in our understandings, without one spark of genuine goodness in our hearts.

The reason of this common separation between knowledge and practice, is the influence

of particular affections and passions within us, leading us contrary to our knowledge. Our judgments direct us one way, our passions draw us another. Reason dictates piety and righteousness; brutal passions and the allurements of the world incline us to irreligion and wickedness. The latter becomes predominant, and thus we are seduced and corrupted; our knowledge becomes of no avail, and our lives are rendered a scene of inconsistency between our principles and our conduct. The knowledge of our duty is given us on purpose that we may do it. Practice is all, and it signifies little what we know if this is wanting. No intellectual talents or accomplishments are of any service to those who possess them unless they are rendered better than other men. It is the subserviency of wit, by leaning to virtue, that makes them indeed ornaments and blessings. Knowledge that is not attended with correspondent practice, defeats its own intention. It becomes maimed, vain, and unprofitable. We may shine, and make a great noise, but we are still destitute of all real worth. One good disposition in the soul is infinitely preferable to fine parts, or the most brilliant wit. One virtue in the heart is more valuable than a million of truths floating in the head, or even the most excellent arts and sciences with which the understanding can be stocked.

We are too apt to be dazzled with the lustre of great talents, and to set an undue value on wit and genius. But the endowments of the head deserve no admiration compared with those of the heart. Virtue is the one thing that is truly and invariably great and admirable, and to this chiefly all other qualities owe their excellence. There is indeed an excellence in knowledge, but it is founded principally on its

connexion with practice. There is a greatness in it, but when separate from a virtuous character, it is nothing but the greatness of a demon. It is important and valuable, but the importance of it consists in its furnishing us with greater means and powers of usefulness. Some degree of knowledge is absolutely necessary to the practice of virtue, and the more any one has of it, the more he is capable of the improvement and happiness connected with virtue. For this reason, it may be considered as the foundation of all the dignity of a rational creature, and consequently it must be our duty to acquire as much of it as we can. But still we should remember, that it is the use we make of it, or the superstructure we raise upon it, that must render it an advantage and a blessing. It will render us more honourable or more deformed, just as we apply it, and the lowest degree of it, when attended with suitable practice, will turn to infinitely more account than the highest degree of it, when applied to vicious purposes. It is unspeakably better to be the silliest creature upon earth, and at the same time virtuously disposed, than to be the finest wit, or the first scholar in the world, and at the same time proud, ill-natured, or envious.

Knowledge, when separated from right practice, is not only unprofitable, but even hurtful and pernicious. It only aggravates guilt, and makes us more vile and detestable. Instead of contributing to our happiness, it becomes a nuisance and a curse, and will sink us deeper into ruin. If a man of an improved understanding is mean, false, or covetous, he is so much the more base and hateful. Those who are above vulgar errors and prejudices, ought also to be above vulgar passions and vices, and if they are not, they are more contemptible

than mechanics or beggars. I have much more to say, but must delay for a few days. In the mean time, I am,

Your sincere well-wisher.

LETTER CXV.

The young gentleman's answer.

Sir,

Ten thousand thanks to my worthy tutor, and second parent, for his kind instructions. You first taught me to form a prayer, and now you have instructed me how to reduce my knowledge to practice. Your letter came to me at a very seasonable juncture: I had been conversing with some of my fellow students concerning the utility of studying history. One represented it as dull and insipid; another as only suited for an idle person, who was so mean as to despise the Beau Monde. For my own part, I am very diffident in deciding dogmatically on an affair of any importance, either real or apparent. But as I would not choose to spend my time in idleness, so neither would I neglect an opportunity of acquiring the knowledge of such sciences as can either enlarge the powers of the human mind, or become useful in common life. I know that we are liable to be swayed by a great number of prejudices, and being well convinced of the depravity of human nature, I am glad to seek for instruction wherever I can find it, but much more so from you. I shall therefore trouble you with the following queries, viz.—

1. Is the study of history necessary, and, if so, what are the benefits arising from it?

2. Whether it is most proper to begin with the Sacred, the Greek, or Roman histories, or those of our own country?

3. Is biography a part of history, or what are its concomitants?

As your knowledge can only be exceeded by your humanity, I doubt not but you will favour me with your answers to the above, and I do assure you I shall abide by your directions. Let me also beg that you will be pleased to mention, in your next, which are the most proper authors to be perused in the above studies. There is such a variety of writers, that the utmost extent of human life will not admit of time to peruse them. In such a wilderness, it is no wonder if I look for a guide. Your *ipse dixit* shall, on all occasions, be the rule of my conduct; and so far as I obtain your approbation, I shall consider myself in the way of duty.

I am, sir, yours, with gratitude, &c.

LETTER CXVI.

The clergyman's answer.

My dear sir,

I received your letter, and am glad that I am in some measure able to comply with your request, having spent many years in the study of history. To attend to the events of Providence, to watch the stream of time, and observe its various revolutions, is an exercise as useful as it is pleasing. If we neglect it, we lose the finest employment of the human understanding, we slight the best friend of virtue, and despise the most faithful advocate for the wisdom and goodness of God. History presents us with a view of the conduct of our fellow creatures in every age and nation. By it we are led into the secrets of princes, thousands of years ago; we learn what were the causes, that the once famous Persian empire became

so easy a prey to a handful of Greeks, under the command of that illustrious murderer Alexander ; and why Julius Cæsar, a servant to the republic at Rome, should be able to trample on the rights of his fellow citizens. But above all, by tracing effects up to their original causes, we see and are convinced of the wisdom, equity, and beauty of the divine Providence, and with the patriarch of old, say—“This hath God done.” For example, when we consider that the effects of the Grecian conquests in Asia diffused among those people the knowledge of the Greek language, and the Roman conquests, on the other hand, made the Latin as well known ; at first sight this may appear a trifling observation ; but, in reality, it was attended with very beneficial consequences to mankind. At the time of Christ’s appearance, the Roman empire extended over the greatest part of the then known world : and abstracting from a few dialects, the greatest and most general body of the people spoke only two languages. This, in a great measure, facilitated the propagation of Christianity, and the glad tidings of the gospel were heard through all lands. History, like every other science, becomes useful according to the manner in which we read it. A chronological series of facts may satisfy an idle curiosity, but the thinking person will reduce rational inference from every material occurrence. A bare narrative of facts is like the materials used in building, but it is only the skilful architect who can complete the edifice. The mind may be stored with facts, while it is altogether uninformed. Voltaire has justly observed that it is of little concern to us when a tyrant was slain by his injured subjects, and a revolution happened, unless we learn at the same time what were the causes from which

these effects flowed. There are three ways in which history ought always to be read, viz. 1st. in short abstract; 2nd. in a more enlarged manner; and, lastly, in a judicious abridgment to refresh the memory. History has likewise three inseparable companions, chronology, geography, and logic. Chronology marks out to us the stages of our journey; geography points out to us the bounds of that country through which we are travelling; and logic enables us to form a right judgment of men and their actions. There is not any body of men, to whom history is not useful. Would you enter the church, you would find it absolutely necessary. For how should they be able to understand the different heresies, or the causes which produced them, unless they are well acquainted with ecclesiastical history, both ancient and modern.

The physician cannot understand the nature of that science which he professes, unless he is conversant with history, and it is well known that law is inseparably connected with it. The senator can never discharge his duty as the representative of the people, unless he knows the history, laws, and constitution of the country wherein he lives. By it the soldier is fired with emulation, when he reflects on the character of Xenophon and Epaminondas, and would wish, in some measure, to share of their glory. These are a few of the advantages arising from the study of history; and this, I hope, may serve as an answer to your first query. I shall consider the other two in the next; and am, in the mean time.

Your sincere friend.

LETTER CXVII.

From the same.

Sir,

I come now to consider your second question, namely, whether we should begin the study of history by reading the sacred oracles, or the records of our own country? I answer, that it is one thing to read history; another to study it. It is well known that we are made acquainted with the contents of our Bible, before we are able to judge for ourselves. It is one of the first books put into our hands, and indeed all that is authentic in sacred history is to be met with in that book. I shall not hesitate one moment in declaring, that you ought to begin the study of history with that of our own country. How foolish must that gentleman appear, who, having made the tour of Europe, and acquired a perfect knowledge of the laws and constitution of foreign nations, returns home ignorant of his own. It is like one who is master of all knowledge, but at the same time ignorant of himself. On a subject of so much importance, I intend to be as explicit as possible. Britain will make a very distinguishing figure in the annals of time, as long as human literature is cultivated in the world. There is not one action celebrated amongst the Greeks and Romans that remains unequalled in Britain; and whilst we admire the disinterestedness of Themistocles, the humanity of Epaminondas, the wisdom of Numa Pompilius, and the valour of Cæsar, we find them all equalled in Caractacus, Alfred, and Marlborough, besides thousands more. There is not an art or science which was known to the ancients, that has not been carried to its highest perfection in England; and the laws,

those sacred securities of lives and properties, are a thousand times superior to any system ever devised by the Greeks or Romans.

The history of Britain is naturally divided into the four following parts—

1. Its state at the arrival of Julius Cæsar, and the different improvements made here whilst we were subject to the Romans. In this period we are to be solely directed by the classic authors, as the most ancient British, and most elegant and beautiful, writer is Gildas, who lived at the time the Romans left this island. Here we cannot help reflecting on the havoc made by time of ancient monuments. Doubtless there were many valuable writers in Britain during that period, but they have been long irrecoverably lost.

2. Under the Saxons, until the arrival of William the Norman. This is a very important period, as the fundamental principles of our constitution were then first formed, which, to use the words of a noble author, “is the glory of this, and the envy of all other European nations.” We are happy in a variety of writers during this period; even the great Alfred himself was one; but they may all be summed up in the Saxon chronicles.

3. From the Norman conquest till the first union of both kingdoms under James I. Here we find the constitution underwent a variety of changes. There was a continual struggle betwixt tyranny on one hand, and a predominant love of liberty on the other. Many of our princes endeavoured to trample on those laws which their conduct was bounded; but their designs were happily frustrated, and they generally perished in the attempt. In this period we find popery raised to its utmost height, and by a wonderful interposition of Providence the

whole fabric is thrown down, and Christianity restored to its primitive purity. The darkness, which had so long overspread the human mind, was gradually dispelled by the invention of printing, and the arts and sciences brought to a perfection unknown to the ancients.

4. From the accession of James I. to the present time. The nearer we approach to the times wherein we live, history becomes so much the more important. In the study of ancient history we wander in the dark, without even moonlight to guide us ; we are bewildered in uncertainty, and scarce know how to form rational conjecture ; but as we approach nearer our times, light breaks in upon us, and we see things in their genuine colours ; such is the present period I am now writing of. It is full of great events, and ought to be well attended to by every one who would desire to make a proper use of history, yea, by every freeborn subject in Britain. In this period we find the same struggle of liberty, in opposition to the design of weak infatuated princes. One king is brought to the scaffold by his own subjects, and another is driven from the seat of sovereignty, and forced to seek refuge in another nation.

There is something remarkable in the care which Providence has always had of British liberty. The numerous nations around us were once free as ourselves, but they have gradually become slaves to despotic tyrants ; whereas every attempt to overthrow the laws of England, have proved fatal to all concerned in it, and freedom has been even enlarged in consequence of the plots laid for its destruction. These are only a few of the outlines of this important period. To descend to particulars, I must refer you to the history itself. The histories of England have, of late years, been so multiplied, that

the term of human life is not sufficient to go over them. You will have occasion to peruse several but, after all, as the occurrences are so various and different, it will be proper to have an epitome or abstract of the whole, in order to refer to and refresh your memory occasionally. The best I know for this purpose is Pye's Epitome of the History of England, with 36 plates. In my next I will finish the plan which I have laid down for your studying the history of other nations, and am,

Your sincere friend.

LETTER CXVII.

From the same.

Sir,

Without considering your question concerning biography, I shall go on with the plan proposed; I mean the history of other nations. After you have proceeded in the manner I have already pointed out, and acquired a tolerable knowledge of your own country, I would advise you to begin with the most ancient—I mean the Jews. This is a very important subject, as to them were committed the oracles of God. It is true, that the most authentic part of their history is to be found in the Old Testament; but great light is thrown on the more obscure passages by Josephus. Having proceeded so far, it will be necessary to peruse the whole in one continued series of facts. And here I am happy in having it in my power to recommend to your perusal the best book ever yet published on that subject, I mean Kimpton's History of the Holy Bible.

In reading the history of ancient Greece, be you will be led into the knowledge of that of

the Persians. Greek writers are models for all succeeding ages to copy after, they may be imitated, but cannot be excelled.

The next in order of time is that of the Romans, which is full of as great events as ever happened on the theatre of the world. Here we see a band of lawless robbers, assembling together in a wood on the banks of the Tiber, and, after ravishing their neighbour's daughters, gradually extending their conquests over the states around them, the great republic of Carthage is obliged to submit to their yoke. They extend their conquests to the east, as far as Arabia; to the south into the deserts of Lybia; and northward into the middle of Britain. They were at last so filled with pride, as to boast that the sun rose and set in their dominions. But there is nothing permanent in this world, for, as the poet says—

“All human things are subject to decay.”

The same enormous empire, which had been so long in forming, is swallowed up in its own greatness, and for some ages past nothing has been left of it but the name. The body became too unwieldy for the head, and those barbarians whom the Romans had never been able to subdue, poured in upon them, and seized their territories, which they had long ruled with a rod of iron. But this did not happen until they had fulfilled the designs of Providence, and performed what the all-wise governor of the universe had appointed. This is most beautifully expressed by the prophet Daniel when he represents the great Nebuchadnezzar, saying, “He doeth according to his will in the armies of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth, and none can stay his hand.” After you have perused the Roman classics, you will be

greatly assisted by reading Dr. Goldsmith's history of that celebrated republic.

The next part of history which claims your attention is the constitution, manners, and laws of those nations who overthrew the Roman empire, and established sovereignty on its ruins.

In order to form a right notion of America, it will be necessary to consider the state of navigation before Columbus lived. In forming a right judgment of those things, it will be necessary to peruse the best authors of voyages and travels, &c., for which reason you must have recourse to a system of Geography where every thing necessary to be known is inserted; the latest and best of which is Bankes's, and I heartily recommend it to your perusal. There you will find the progress of navigation and commerce from the most early period down to the present time.

Last of all, concerning biography, I answer, that it is a part of history, and likewise ought to be studied; but not till you have read the accounts of nations in general. General history presents us with a view of the public conduct of great men. The one presents us with a representation of things in general, the other leads us into a minute detail of particulars. Thus, sir, have I laid before you the same plan which I used myself, when I first undertook the study of history. You will find this method as beneficial as any yet pointed out by the most learned in either ancient or modern times. I shall leave the whole to your consideration, and doubt not but you will improve it to your own advantage.

I am, dear sir,

Your affectionate well-wisher.

COMPLIMENTARY CARDS.

Cards of Compliment should be short, easy, and consistent with politeness. They must begin with the title or style of the writer, and care must be taken immediately after to state, in a respectful manner, the style or title of those to whom they are addressed: they must contain but one subject, and that should be expressed with elegance and perspicuity, viz.—

Miss Sprightly's respectful compliments to Lady Tissue, entreats the honour of her company this afternoon to take tea.

Monday Morn.

Lady Tissue's compliments to Miss Sprightly, is happy to accept her agreeable invitation.

Monday Noon.

Mrs. Fleming's compliments to Miss Dyson, hopes she got safe home, and is in health, after the fatigue of sitting up so late.

Friday Morn.

Miss Dyson's compliments to Mrs. Fleming, got home perfectly safe, and is extremely well; returns respectful thanks for her obliging inquiries.

Friday, 2 o'Clock.

Miss Guitar's compliments, should be glad of Miss Spinnet's company to take dinner with her.

Tuesday, 12 o'Clock.

Miss Spinnet's compliments, will not fail to wait upon Miss Guitar.

Tuesday, 12 o'Clock.

Lord Hairbrain's compliments to Mr. Spar-

row, should be glad of his company in the evening to Vauxhall.

Friday, 4 o'Clock.

Mr. Sparrow's respectful compliments to Lord Hairbrain, must deny himself the pleasure of attending his Lordship, being already engaged in a party to Drury-lane theatre.

Friday, 5 o'Clock.

Proper mode of Directing Letters to, and addressing Persons of every Rank in common discourse.

To the Royal Family.

To the King's Most Excellent Majesty—Sire, or May it please your Majesty.

To His Royal Highness———, Prince Regent—Sir, or May it please your Royal Highness.

To His Royal Highness Frederick, Duke of York, &c. &c. &c.—Sir, or May it please your Royal Highness.

All the other branches of the Royal Family are to be addressed in the same manner, merely making the proper distinctions of sex.

To the Nobility.

To His Grace the Duke of Devonshire—My Lord Duke, Your Grace.

To the Most Noble Charles, Marquis of Buckingham—My Lord Marquis, Your Lordship.

To the Right Honourable the Earl of Craven—My Lord, Your Lordship.

The sons of Dukes, Marquises, and the eldest sons of Earls, have, by the courtesy of Eng.

FORMS USED IN LAW.

A seaman's will and power.

Know all men by these presents, that —
W—, mariner, on board his Majesty's ship
Superb, by these presents do make and appoint
my trusty friend E— R—, prize agent,
136, High-street, Portsmouth, my true and law-
ful attorney, to receive whatever sums of money
may become due to me for pay, prize money,
wages, or on any other account whatsoever,
whilst serving on board any of his Majesty's
ships or vessels of war. Giving, and hereby
granting unto my said attorney, full power to
take, pursue, and follow such legal courses for
the recovery, receiving, and obtaining and dis-
charging of the said sums of money, or any of
them, as I myself might or could do were I per-
sonally present ; and I hereby ratify, allow, and
confirm, all and whatever my said attorney shall
lawfully do, or cause to be done, by virtue of
these presents. In witness whereof, I have
hereunto set my hand and seal this — day of
—, one thousand eight hundred and —
B—W—.

Signed, sealed, and delivered,
in the presence of us, A. B.
 C. D.

A deed of gift.

To all whom it may concern. I, H—, J—, do send greeting.—Know ye that the said H— J—, of the parish of Cranbourn, in the county of Dorset, gentleman, in consequence of the love, goodwill, and affection which I have and do bear towards my brother, T— J—,

of the aforesaid parish and county, do by these presents freely give and grant unto my said dear brother, his heirs, executors, or administrators, all and singular my goods and chattels, now being in my present house, number —, Water-street; of which by these presents I have delivered him, the said T—— J——, an inventory, signed by my own hand, before proper witnesses, and bearing date the — day of —, one thousand eight hundred and —, to have and to hold all the said goods and chattels in the said premises, to him the said T—— J——, his heirs, executors, or administrators, henceforth, as his and their proper goods and chattels absolutely, without any manner of condition. In witness whereof, I have hereunto put my hand and seal, this — day of —, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and —
H—— J——.

Signed, sealed, and delivered,
in the presence of us,

A. B.
C. D.

A bond.

Be it known unto all men, by these presents, that I, J—— T——, of the parish of St. Giles, in the county of Middlesex, gentleman, am held and firmly bound to E—— A——, of the aforesaid county, esquire, in the penal sum of — guineas, of good and lawful money of Great Britain, to be paid to the said E—— A——, esquire, his heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns; for the true payment whereof I bind myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, firmly by these presents, sealed with my seal. Dated this — day of —, in the — year of the reign of our sovereign Lord George the Fourth, by the Grace of God of the

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, king, and in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and —.

The condition of this obligation is such, that if the above bounden J—— T——, his heirs, executors, or administrators, do well and truly pay, or cause to be paid, to the above named E—— A——, his heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns, the full sum of — guineas, of good and lawful money of Great Britain, on the —— day of —— next ensuing the date hereof, with lawful interest, then this obligation to be void, but in failure thereof to remain in due force. J——T——.

Signed, sealed, and delivered,
in the presence of us, be-
ing duly stamped.

A.B.
C.D

Double the value received is always mentioned in the body of all bonds, and the real sum secured is specified in the condition.

The form of a will.

In the name of God, Amen. The —— day of ——, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ——, I, William Philips, of the City of London, gentleman, being, through the blessing of God, in a sound state of mind and memory, but calling to mind the frail tenure of this life, and that it is appointed to all men once to die, do make and ordain this my last will and testament, that is to say, principally and first of all, I recommend my soul into the hands of Almighty God who gave it me, and the disposal of my body I leave to the entire discretion of my friends.

With respect to my worldly estate, I give, bequeath, and dispose of it in the manner and proportions here following—.

First, I give and bequeath to my dearly beloved wife, Elizabeth, the sum of eight hundred pounds, to be paid to her within one month of my decease, together with all my houses, household furniture, plate, jewels, and such money as may be in my house at the time of my death. I also further give to my said beloved wife the sum of one thousand pounds, lawful money of Great Britain, annually, during the period of her natural life, to be secured on my estate in —.

Also, I give to my dear daughter Julia, the sum of five thousand pounds, lawful money of Great Britain, to be paid to her on the day she attains her twenty-first year. In addition to which sum of five thousand pounds, I hereby direct my executor to pay her on the first day of every year the full sum of one hundred pounds, free from any deductions, during the course of her natural life.

Finally, I give and bequeath unto my much beloved son, John Philips, whom I make my sole executor of this my last will and testament, all and singular my lands, messuages, tenements, and funded property, with the exceptions above made in favour of my dearly beloved wife and daughter, both of whom I recommend unto his most especial notice. And I do hereby utterly disallow, revoke, and disannul all and every other former testaments, wills, legacies, bequests, and executors, by me in any way before named, willed, and bequeathed: ratifying and confirming this, and no other, to be my last will and testament. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal, the day and year above written

WILLIAM PHILIPS.

Signed, sealed, published, pronounced,

and declared, by the said Wm. Philips, as his last will and testament, in the presence of us, the subscribers.

A. B.

C. D.

E. F.

Form of a codicil.

Be it known unto all men by these presents, I, the said Wm. Philips, of the City of London, gentleman, have made and declared my last will and testament, bearing date the — day of —, one thousand eight hundred and —; I, the said Wm. Philips, by this present codicil, do ratify and confirm my said last will and testament, and do give and bequeath unto my dear brother Edw. Philips, the sum of fifty guineas of good and lawful money of Great Britain, to be paid to the said Edw. Philips, by my executor out of my estate, within three months from the time of my decease; and my will and meaning is, that this codicil be adjudged to be a part of my late will and testament; and that all things therein mentioned, and contained, be fully and amply performed in every respect, as if the same were so delivered and set down in my said last will and testament. Witness my hand, this — day of —, one thousand eight hundred and —.

WILLIAM PHILIPS.

Signed, sealed, published, pronounced, and declared by the said Wm. Philips, as a codicil to his last will and testament, in the presence of us the subscribers,

H. W.

M. E.

X. Y.

THE COMPLETE
PETITIONS.

To the Right Honourable the First Lord Commissioner of the Treasury, for a place in the Stamp Office.

The humble petition of E. J.

Showeth,

That your petitioner, by a variety of unforeseen misfortunes, is reduced from affluence and respect to a state of great distress. This, combined with the melancholy situation in which his family is consequently plunged, is the cause of his presumption in addressing your lordship, with an humble solicitation for one of the present vacant places of distributors in the Stamp Office, and for which he can produce testimonials that he is properly qualified; and if required he can likewise give security for his fidelity.

Humbly relying upon your lordship's well-known humanity,

Your petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

General form of a petition.

To the Right Honourable Lord ———.
The humble petition of A.B.

Showeth,

That your petitioner humbly presumes to present himself to your lordship's notice, from the recommendations which he can produce for general propriety of conduct; under this impression, your lordship's petitioner ventures to

solicit from your lordship an appointment to the situation of ———, which is now at your lordship's disposal

And your petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

The above form will serve for every case where an appointment is solicited.

A petition soliciting relief.

To A. B. Esq.

The humble petition of C. D.

Showeth,

That your petitioner, from a variety of unforeseen events, has been greatly reduced in circumstances, and is consequently compelled to throw himself upon the benevolence of the humane.

Your petitioner, therefore, ventures most humbly to solicit some share of that relief you so frequently bestow upon the unfortunate, in order to enable him once more to commence some line of business, in which, by industrious attention, he may support himself and family.

And your petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

From a discharged soldier, to be admitted into Chelsea Hospital.

To the Honourable Lieutenant-General B. Governor of Chelsea Hospital, &c. &c. &c.

The humble petition of A. B.

Showeth,

That your petitioner served twenty years, as a private man in the twelfth regiment of foot,

and during the whole time behaved as became a good soldier ; that he was in every engagement during the last war in America ; and although he did not receive any wounds, yet, when he returned to his native country, his health was so much impaired, that the commanding officer was obliged to discharge him from the regiment. That your petitioner, not having been brought up to any trade, has no other way of procuring a subsistence, but by applying to your honour to be admitted either as an in or out-pensioner on the royal foundation at Chelsea.

And your petitioner, as in duty bound shall ever pray.

To the Honourable the Commissioners of the Navy.

The humble petition of A. B.

From a sailor, to be admitted on the chest at Chatham.

Showeth,

That your petitioner served ten years on board the Lion, where he received a wound on his shoulder, which occasioned his being discharged, and when he returned to his native country he found himself unable to work for his living : that having faithfully, and at the hazard of his life, served his king and country, he humbly hopes that your honours will consider him as a fit object of being admitted as a pensioner on the chest at Chatham.

And your petitioner, as in duty bound shall ever pray.

From a soldier to his colonel, requesting to be discharged.

To the Honourable Colonel B——.

The humble petition of A. B.

Showeth,

That your petitioner has served ten years in the regiment commanded by your honour, and during the whole time has always behaved as became a good soldier; that having a wife and children in a distant part of the kingdom, and being very desirous of settling with them, humbly prays that your honour will be pleased to discharge him from the service.

And your petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

From a person afflicted with the dropsy, to be admitted into an hospital.

To the President and Governors of St. George's Hospital.

The humble petition of A. B.

Showeth,

That your petitioner has been long afflicted with the dropsy, and having spent all that he could procure in paying for medicines, is still in the same unhappy condition as before; nor does he conceive any hopes of recovery, unless he is admitted as a patient in your hospital; that your petitioner is a real object of charity, and most humbly begs to be taken under your care.

And your petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

From a poor man, whose goods had been seized for rent, to a gentleman, in the same neighbourhood.

To R. D. Esq.

The humble petition of A. B.

Showeth,

That your petitioner has always laboured hard to support his family. That his wife, and two of his children, having been long confined to a sick bed, run him to so many expenses, that he had it not in his power to pay his landlord half-a-year's rent, due last quarter day. That your petitioner's landlord came yesterday and seized his goods, and unless redeemed in five days, they will be appraised and sold. That your petitioner has often heard of your humanity, and begs that you will so far interpose, as to prevent a poor man and his family from being turned into the streets.

And your petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

From a widow, to obtain a license for keeping a public house.

To the worshipful the Justices of D.

The humble petition of A. B.

Showeth,

That your petitioner's late husband was an eminent carpenter, and carried on a very considerable trade, but dying suddenly, his affairs were left in a perplexed manner; and when your petitioner employed one to state the whole of her husband's debts and credit, there was not above one hundred pounds remaining for her-

self; that your petitioner has six children utterly unprovided for, nor knows not of any other way to procure them a subsistence, but by keeping a public-house; that she has not money sufficient to pay the good-will of one in the common manner, and having a convenient house left by her husband, she humbly begs that your worships will be pleased to grant her a license.

And your petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

From a decayed tradesman, to have his son admitted into Merchant Tailors' School.

To the Master and Wardens of the Worshipful Company of Merchant Tailors.

The humble petition of A. B.

Showeth,

That your petitioner has long carried on trade in credit, and is free of your company; but having a numerous family, he is obliged to solicit the favour of the company, to have his youngest son admitted as a scholar on your foundation; and if so happy as to succeed in this, his first request, he shall,

As in duty bound, ever pray.

RECEIPTS, BILLS, &c.

A receipt for money.

London, May 14, 18—.

Received from Joseph Lea, the sum of seven hundred pounds, the value of three hundred dozen of port wine, sold to him this day.

£700.

JOHN KING.

A receipt in full of all demands.

London, Oct. 20, 18—.

Received of James White, Esq. the sum of one thousand pounds, being in full of all demands possessed by us on the said James White, Esq.

£1000.

J. JONES AND CO.

Note.—A receipt in full of all demands must be given on a *ten shilling* stamp, otherwise it will not be valid.

A draft, or bill of exchange.

London, Sept. 5, 18—.

Sixty days after date pay to Mr. Samuel £500. Osborne or order, the sum of five hundred pounds, for value received.

Messrs. A. and B. Bankers,
Lombard Street.

Another.

London, Sept. 6, 18—.

At ten days' sight, pay the bearer the sum of fifty pounds, and book it to me, for value received.

£50.

I am, sir,

Your obedient servant,

Wm. Morris, Esq.

JOHN HANSON.

Str
Foley Street

Another.

London, Oct. 6, 18—.

Two months after date pay to our order,
£50 6s. fifty pounds six shillings, for value received.

HAMILTON AND JOHNS.

*To Mr. Benjamin Toy,
Fitzroy Square.*

Note.—To render the above bills current, they must be accepted by the persons on whom drawn, and indorsed by the drawer, as well as by all persons through whose hands they may pass. They may be of any date, as agreed on between the parties.

A promissory note.

London, March 1, 18—.

One month after date, I promise to pay Mr. Richard Worrall, or order, the sum of thirty pounds, for value received.

£30.

WM. HOSKINS.

Note.—This bill must, to render it negotiable, be indorsed by the persons whose hands it may pass through, in the same manner as directed for bills of exchange.

For the necessary stamps refer to the following page.

NEW STAMP DUTIES.

INLAND BILLS AND NOTES.				Not exceed 2 mo. or 60 days' sight.			Exceeding 2 months or 60 days' sight.		
				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
If —	£2	0		£5	5	0	0	1	6
Above	5	5		20	0	0	0	1	6
—	20	0	and not exceeding	30	0	0	0	2	6
—	30	0		50	0	0	0	2	6
—	50	0		100	0	0	0	3	6
—	100	0		200	0	0	0	4	6
—	200	0		300	0	0	0	5	0
—	300	0		500	0	0	0	6	0
—	500	0		1000	0	0	0	8	6
—	1000	0		2000	0	0	0	12	6
—	2000	0		3000	0	0	0	15	0
Above				3000	0	1	5	0	0

AGREEMENTS.

Before . . £0 16 0 will be . . . £1 0 0
 Before . . 1 10 0 will be . . . 1 15 0
 With a progressive duty of . . 1 5 0

RECEIPTS.

s. d.				s. d.			
£2 and under	5	0	2	£100 under	200	2	6
5	10	0	3	200	300	4	0
10	20	0	6	300	500	5	0
20	50	1	0	500	1000	7	6
50	100	1	6	1000 or upward		10	0

All Receipts in Full, Ten Shillings.

*N.B. The Person receiving the Money to
 pay for the Stamp.*

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land, the title of Lord, and Right Honourable ; and the title of Lady is given to their daughters.

The youngest sons of Earls, and the sons of Viscounts and Barons are styled Esquires, and Honourable, which latter title all their daughters possess.

Persons who, by the King's commission, are appointed to places of high trust, are also styled Honourable.

No Commoner can possess the title of Right Honourable, with the exception of those who are members of the Privy Council ; the three Lord Mayors, of London, York, and Dublin, and the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, during their continuance in office.

Ladies are addressed according to the rank held by their husbands.

To the Parliament.

To the Right Honourable the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament at this time assembled—My Lords, or May it please your Lordships.

To the Honourable the Knights, Citizens, and Burgesses in Parliament at this time assembled—Gentlemen, or May it please your Honours.

To the Right Honourable Charles Manners Sutton, Speaker of the House of Commons—Sir, or May it please your Honour.

To the Clergy.

To the Most Reverend Father in God, the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury—My Lord, or May it please your Grace.

To the Right Reverend Father in God, the Lord Bishop of Durham—My Lord, or Your Lordship.

To the Very Reverend the Dean of Windsor—Mr. Dean, or Reverend Sir.

To the Rev. A. B. Archdeacon, Chancellor, or Prebendary of Salisbury—Reverend Sir.

To the Rev. C. D. Rector, Vicar, Curate, or Lecturer of St. Mary's Church—Sir, or Reverend Sir.

All the Officers of His Majesty's Household

Should be addressed according to their rank, as follows: To the Right Honourable Earl B. Lord High Steward, or Lord High Chamberlain, &c. &c. &c. and addressed thus—My Lord Steward, or my Lord Chamberlain.

Letters addressed to any public persons should always have their highest office specified thereon, with three &c.'s after it.

To the Army and Navy.

In the Army and Navy all Noblemen are styled according to their rank, to which must be added the situation they are employed in—namely,

To the Honourable Charles James, General of his Majesty's Forces, &c. &c. &c.—Sir, or your Honour.

To Henry Melmoth, Esq. Colonel of his Majesty's Tenth Regiment of Dragoons—Sir.

To Major, Captain, or Lieutenant Williamson, of his Majesty's 42d Regiment.

To Sir William Parker, Bart. K.C.B. Admiral of his Majesty's Blue Squadron, &c. &c.—Sir, Your Honour.

To Richard King, Esq. Captain of his Majesty's Ship Phœbe—Sir, Your Honour.

Lieutenant William Moriaty, R.N. on board his Majesty's Ship Prince—Sir.

Mr. Mason, Midshipman, of his Majesty's Ship Clinker—Sir.

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To Ambassadors, Secretaries, and Consuls.

Ambassadors have the title of Excellency added to their quality ; so have also Plenipotentiaries, Foreign Governors, and the Lord Lieutenant, and the Lord Justices of Ireland.

To his Excellency Sir Henry Philips, Bart. His Britannic Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Court of Spain—Sir, Your Excellency.

To Seignor Fernandez, Secretary from the Republic of Venice—Sir.

To George Hoare, Esq. Consul to his Britannic Majesty at Smyrna—Sir.

To his Excellency C. M. T. Ambassador to His Most Christian Majesty—Sir, Your Excellency.

To Judges and Lawyers.

Judges and Privy Counsellors are styled Right Honourable.

To the Right Honourable A. B. Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain—My Lord, Your Lordship.

To the Right Honourable C. D. Master of the Rolls—Sir, Your Honour.

To the Right Honourable Sir V. G. Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench ; or of the Common Pleas—My Lord, Your Lordship.

To the Honourable E. F. Lord Chief Baron—Sir.

To the Honourable G. H. one of his Majesty's Justices—Sir.

To Sir W. G. his Majesty's Attorney or Solicitor General—Sir.

Observe, that every Barrister has the title of Esquire.

To the Lieutenancy and Magistracy.

To the Most Noble Charles, Marquis of A. 10

Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum of the County of Middlesex, &c. &c. &c.—My Lord, Your Lordship.

To the Right Honourable S. B. Esq. Lord Mayor of the City of London—My Lord, Your Lordship.

Gentlemen acting as Magistrates have the title of Esquire, and are styled Worshipful; likewise Sheriffs and Recorders. The Aldermen and Recorder of London, and the Mayors of all Corporations, excepting London, York, and Dublin, are styled Right Worshipful.

To N. N. Esq. High Sheriff of the County of Hants—Sir, Your Worship.

To Governors of the Crown.

To his Excellency George, Duke of R. Lord Lieutenant of Ireland—My Lord Duke, Your Excellency.

To the Right Honourable Lord A. Governor of Dover Castle, &c. &c. &c.—My Lord, Your Lordship.

Major General Harris, Lieutenant Governor of Portsmouth—Sir, Your Honour.

To Corporate Bodies.

To the Honourable Court of Directors of the United Company of Merchants, trading to the East Indies—Your Honours.

To the Honourable the Sub-Governors, Deputy Governors, and Directors of the South Sea Company—Your Honours.

To the Honourable the Governors, Deputy Governors, and Directors of the Bank of England—Your Honours.

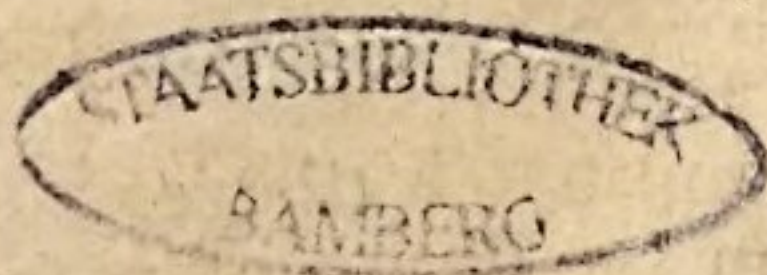
To the Master and Wardens of the Worshipful Company of Mercers, Goldsmiths, &c.—Your Worships.

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The Complete Letter-Writer Being A Course Of Original Letters, On Business, Duty, Amusement, Affection, Courtship, Marriage, Friendship, And Other Subjects : Also, Cards of Compliments, And Various Forms In Law : Likewise Directions For Addressing Persons Of All Ranks, And The Complete

London [circa 1820]

Bamberg, Staatsbibliothek -- Phil.d.42

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